

Iraq denies Iranian reports of fighting

BAHRAIN (R) — Iran claimed Sunday it had seized Iraqi territory in a new offensive on the northern front in the Gulf war, but Iraq denied that there had been any major fighting in the region. An Iranian military communique, carried by the national news agency IRNA, said 120 square kilometres of territory had been captured and more than 1,200 Iraqi troops killed or wounded since the attack was launched on Friday. In Baghdad, a military spokesman told Reuters by telephone: "The situation in the north is fully controlled by Iraqi forces and nothing has happened there to disturb the region's security." The Iranian communique said Iranian forces had seized 25 villages and several outposts in the northeast Iraqi province of Sulaimaniyah. The Iraqi military spokesman said the Iranians were spreading "new lies concerning the events, hopes and expectations which have been buried during the so-called Karbala-9 offensive."

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Iraqi industry minister arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraqi Industry Minister Hatem Abdul Rasbid, who is also director general of the Arab Industrial Development Organisation (AIDO), arrived here on Saturday to take part in a meeting which opens today to study ways of promoting joint Arab industrial projects. Mr. Abdul Rasbid will also discuss with Ministry of Industry and Trade officials means of reactivating the Jordanian-Iraqi company for industry. The two sides will also draw up working plans for the company to set up new projects.

Sudan seeks tripartite summit over Chad

ABU DHABI (R) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said in an interview published Sunday that he would soon call on the leaders of Libya and Chad to hold a three-way summit with Sudan to settle the Libya-Chad dispute. He suggested no time or place for the meeting in his interview with the United Arab Emirates daily Al Khaleej. Libya and Chad have conflicting claims over the Aouzou Strip, an area believed rich in minerals along their border, and Tripoli has also backed anti-government rebels in northern Chad.

TASS reports attack on Afghan envoy

MOSCOW (R) — Gunmen attacked the home of the acting Afghan charge d'affaires in Tehran three days ago and there was an exchange of fire with the residence's guards, the official Soviet news agency TASS said Sunday. The agency did not say if the envoy was hurt or whether there were any other casualties. Quoting a report by the official Afghan news agency Bakhtar, TASS said the acting charge d'affaires of Iran in Afghanistan was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Kabul and presented with a strong protest. It said the Afghan foreign ministry demanded that those responsible for the attack should be punished and that Iran should honour its commitments to protect diplomatic missions.

Le Pen to seek French presidency

PARIS (AP) — Jean-Marie Le Pen, head of the extreme-right National Front, announced Sunday he will be a candidate for president next year in what he called "a decisive battle for France's future." President Francois Mitterrand's seven-year term expires in May 1988. Although he could call an election sooner, the vote is widely expected to come next spring. Mr. Le Pen founded the National Front in 1972 and has seen the party's support grow gradually ever since.

Iran denies passing data on Libya

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's Foreign Ministry Sunday dismissed a report that Tehran passed intelligence on guerrilla training bases in Libya to the United States before the air raids on Libya last year as "farfetched." Iran's official news agency reported. The Islamic Republic News Agency said the report in the Detroit Free Press that the information was passed to a former Central Intelligence Agency pilot in February, 1986, was "far too ridiculous and absurd to warrant a denial."

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Kuwait conference ends after extensive review of investments in Jordan

KUWAIT (Petra) — A two-day conference on promoting investments in Jordan ended in Kuwait on Sunday after reviewing several papers dealing with areas for investments in the Kingdom. Conference Subcommittees on agriculture, industry, tourism and communications held side meetings to review areas where investments can be made.

A statement summing up the deliberations of the delegates to the conference was issued Sunday. It reaffirmed the fact that Jordan's economic climate was quite suitable for investment by Kuwaiti businesses and investors in view of the Kingdom's geographic location, the security and political stability it enjoys and its excellent relations with various Arab countries.

Investment in Jordan is also viable in view of the various incentives offered and encouragement given by the government through exemptions of tax, it said.

The statement said that a number of Kuwaiti investors and businessmen had expressed desire to invest capital in different projects in Jordan.

Finance Minister Hanna Odeh voiced Jordan's appreciation for

the Kuwaiti government and people for the facilities that helped this conference to achieve success.

Mr. Jassem Al Khnrafi, Kuwait's minister of finance, praised the atmosphere that characterised the conference and the results that were reached.

He expressed hope that more contacts and consultations would be held between Jordan and Kuwait, and announced that a conference on promoting investments in Jordan would be held later in Amman.

The Kuwaiti government has decided to set up a committee to deal with any problem related to Kuwaiti investments in Jordan and the committee's task will be primarily directed to overcome obstacles that impede the course of investment. Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher

said. The committee, which, he said, will coordinate work with the concerned Jordanian authorities in implementing its mission, comprises the chairman of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the under-secretary of the Kuwait's Ministry of Finance and the chairman of the General Investment Corporation. Dr. Muasher, Dr. Odeh and other members of the Jordanian delegation involved in the conference answered questions put to them by the Kuwaiti investors and businessmen on prospects of investment in different fields.

In reply to a question, Dr. Muasher said that Jordanian government was providing protection to local industries from foreign competition through legislation.

In reply to another question, the minister said that the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) realised profits in 1986 and was distributing dividends at the rate of six per cent to shareholders despite its decision last year to acquire the South Cement Company.

Dr. Muasher and Dr. Odeh held a meeting at the Jordanian embassy in Kuwait on Sunday to discuss with Jordanian expatriates prospects of investments in (Continued on page 3)

Joint Soviet-Syrian statement calls for Palestinian unity and Arab solidarity

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union and Syria called on Sunday for the restoration of unity in Palestinian ranks and said Arab countries must end their quarrels in order to repulse their foes.

A Soviet-Syrian statement, issued one day after President Hafez Al Assad completed an official visit to Moscow, said a comprehensive Middle East settlement should be achieved through an international conference under United Nations auspices.

"The sides underlined the need to restore the unity of the ranks of the Palestinian resistance movement on a principled and anti-imperialist platform," the official Soviet news agency TASS said.

"The increasing encroachments by imperialism and Zionism on the Arabs' independence and national dignity, the U.S.

acts of armed aggression against Libya and the large-scale campaign of pressure on Syria launched in the West, set Arab countries the task of overcoming persisting disagreements and ending civil wars..." TASS said.

TASS said Mr. Gorbachev had accepted an invitation to visit Syria. No dates were announced.

In Damascus, Syria's ruling Arab Baath Party newspaper said Sunday President Assad's visit to Moscow would help to protect the Arab World from peril.

Mr. Assad's trip would "help the modern Arab struggle to ward off dangers facing the Arab Nation," Al Baath said.

Mr. Assad returned to Damascus on Saturday after meeting Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and other officials during his three-day visit.

"The Soviet leader's affirma-

tion of continued support for Syria's defensive potential means that attempts by Israel and America to monopolise the region are futile," Al Baath said.

In a speech on Friday, Mr. Gorbachev said Moscow would continue to provide military support to Syria, adding that cooperation between the two countries was based on common interests.

He also called for an international Middle East peace conference to be attended by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and other concerned parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Diplomats in Moscow said Mr. Assad's visit was marked by differences over the road to Middle East peace, reunification of the PLO, Lebanon, the Iran-Iraq war and Arab solidarity.

60 detained in Beirut as suspects in bombings

BEIRUT (AP) — Sixty people have been rounded up on charges of involvement in almost daily bombings in west Beirut over the last two months, police said Sunday.

The bombings, which have caused few casualties, were apparently aimed at undermining Syria's military intervention to restore order in the capital's mainly Muslim western sector.

A few hours after the announcement, a dynamite bomb exploded in the low-income Basta district.

The blast raised the number of bombings in west Beirut to 76 since Syrian troops and tanks moved in Feb. 22 to quell factional fighting. No group has claimed responsibility for the bombings.

Sunday's blast ended a three-day respite in attacks that coincided with a nation-wide strike called by the General Confederation of Labour to protest soaring prices and worsening living conditions. The strike ended Sunday.

The As Safir daily said the unidentified detainees included the "gang leader who confessed he had been paid \$340,000 by a non-Lebanese faction to carry out the bombings." It did not elaborate.

Police said five people were killed in "routine violence" Saturday and Sunday (See page 2).

Perle sees 'zero option' over short-range missiles

BONN (Agencies) — U.S. Under-Secretary of Defence Richard Perle was quoted on Sunday as saying he thought the United States could accept a Soviet proposal to scrap shorter-range nuclear missiles — but only if it received allied support.

Mr. Perle told the West German news magazine Der Spiegel in an interview that he expected Washington to respond to the Soviet offer during the latest round of arms talks in Geneva, which resumed last week.

The issue of shorter-range missiles, with a range of 500 to 1,000 kilometres, is dominating arms control debate within the NATO alliance in view of fears particularly in West Germany that their removal could diminish security.

Mr. Perle said that all Soviet shorter-range missiles had to be taken into account, not just those stationed in Europe, and noted the U.S. position that both superpowers had to have equal numbers.

"Because control of these systems is almost impossible, we must consider together with the allies how high the same number on both sides should be. It could be zero, it could be the present Soviet level or also a level somewhere in between," Mr. Perle told Der Spiegel.

Asked which number he regarded as probable, Mr. Perle said:

"I reckon on zero but this decision cannot be made by the United States alone. However, we will certainly be in a position to answer the Soviets in the cur-

rent round of Geneva talks."

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has offered to scrap all shorter-range missiles in Europe within a year of a treaty being signed with Washington to eliminate U.S. and Soviet medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl is due to meet senior ministers Monday to hammer out a unified position on the issue after a rift developed in his coalition over what approach to adopt to the offer.

Mr. Perle said the West had to increase its conventional capability to maintain an effective deterrence and argued that West Germany could contribute more to NATO's defence effort.

He also cited verification as the main problem that had yet to be resolved before a medium-range missile accord could be signed with the Soviet Union.

In Moscow the Soviet news agency TASS said Warsaw Pact leaders had expressed full support for new proposals on nuclear arms cuts by Mr. Gorbachev.

Soviet officials had in recent days given the leaders of the East bloc military alliance detailed briefings about the proposals, outlined during a visit to Moscow this month by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, it added.

Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski was briefed in Moscow this week and Soviet envoys went to brief East Germany, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Romania, the other member countries, TASS said.

Sheikh Jaber rejects Iranian threats

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, has rejected warnings by Tehran not to use U.S. and Soviet tankers to carry Kuwaiti oil to prevent attacks by Iran in the Gulf, Kuwait Radio reported Sunday.

"Those who have sometimes tried to inveigle and others to intimidate Kuwait have failed in their attempts to pressure Kuwait to become subservient to them," he said Saturday night at a banquet honouring Kuwaiti golfers who have won a series of tournaments.

"We are determined to continue our policy of evenhandedness towards the superpowers, friendship towards all states and non-subservience to anyone," the emir said.

"We are a small country... but we cherish big hopes and are proud to pursue such a foreign policy."

Kuwait is the closest Gulf state to the Iran-Iraq war zone.

Iran has repeatedly threatened Kuwait, charging it aids Iraq in the 6½-year-old war and has attacked Kuwaiti vessels or those carrying cargoes for Kuwait in retaliation for Iraqi raids on Iranian tankers.

Kuwait plans to charter U.S. and Soviet tankers or register its own vessels in the United States and the Soviet Union to protect them, U.S. and Soviet warships patrol the Gulf.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei warned Friday that Iran will attack tankers carrying Kuwaiti crude oil even if they fly U.S. and Soviet flags.

The emir urged his countrymen to maintain "vigilance in face of the enemies of Kuwait who try to undermine our security."

"We have no ambitions against anybody, but we will not permit anyone to encroach on our dignity, independence or stability."

The United Arab Emirates' official WAM news agency said that Mr. Khamenei sent a message to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan concerning regional developments and bilateral relations.

The agency did not elaborate. But it said the message was delivered to Sheikh Zayed in Abu Dhabi by Lutfallah Atabaki, Iran's deputy intelligence chief.

In Peking, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang told UAE Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah Al Noaimi that China opposes any moves that jeopardise navigation in the Gulf.

He reiterated that China was neutral in the Iran-Iraq war.

China has denied reports that it is Iran's largest arms supplier.

Zambia denies ANC targets hit in South African attack

LIVINGSTONE, Zambia (R) — South African commandos left a trail of destruction after a weekend raid on this border town but failed to hit guerrilla targets, according to Zambian officials.

Hostile, jeering crowds greeted the first foreign journalists to arrive in this quiet tourist town close to the Victoria Falls after the hit-and-run attack by commandos on motorcycles.

Reporters, who were repeatedly asked for assurances they were not South African, were shown the damage and taken to the town morgue to see bullet-riddled bodies.

Four men were killed in the raid on three buildings in the early hours of Saturday morning. A young woman, niece of Zambian Defence Minister Malimba Masheke, was seriously wounded with a bullet lodged in her head.

Pretoria says its commando squad knocked out bases of the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla movement, which it alleges planned to infiltrate South Africa to disrupt the May 6 whites-only general election.

ANC and Zambian officials said the victims were all Zambian

Parliament expected to convene in extraordinary session by end of June

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Parliament is expected to meet in an extraordinary session by the end of June to resume debate over pending legislation and possibly elect a successor to a deputy who passed away in January, informed sources said Sunday.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, noted that there were over 15 draft laws pending before Parliament and the concerned committees of the Upper and Lower Houses were studying them.

In accordance with the statute of Parliament, the two houses can be convened in extraordinary session in response to a Royal Decree which can also restrict the items on the agenda for the special session. There had been extraordinary sessions every year since 1964 when Parliament was recalled after a 10-year suspension.

The sources who spoke to the Jordan Times on Sunday said one of the expected items on the agenda for the to-be convened

session was the election of a successor to Mr. Hanna Bannoura, who represented one of the Bethlehem constituencies in the Lower House. Mr. Bannoura died in January.

The Jordan Times learnt that there were over 10 candidates vying for the empty seat in the Lower House. Four of them are considered leading contenders. They are: Dr. Carlos Damis, a medical doctor and member of the dissolved National Consultative Council, Mr. Salim Khaliliyeh, a former brigadier in the General Intelligence Department, Mr. Issam Sahouri, a prominent lawyer, and George Hanna, a prominent Assyrian businessman.

In line with the Parliament statute, the House speaker has to inform the prime minister of the vacant seat and of election plans 30 days ahead of election. It was not clear on Sunday whether the formality had already been completed with. The sources noted that the speaker, Mr. Akef Al Fayed, had over 20 days of time to notify the prime minister if the issue was to be included in the

extraordinary session. Parliament resumes its regular sessions only in October. The two houses went into their annual summer recess in late February.

In another development, other sources said a move by the government on Saturday instructing provincial governors to prepare voters' lists was not related to any definite plan to hold general elections in the East Bank. They said the move was in line with provisions in the Electoral Law of 1986 which call for a general assessment of the electorate and finalisation of voters' lists.

The term in office of the present Lower House ends in January 1988. However, a Royal Decree could end the term before its expiry and call for general elections any time or extend the term.

The general feeling among parliamentarians and government officials is that the term of the present House would be extended by a Royal Decree. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai said in March that new elections would have to be held before the end of this year if the term of the present Lower House was not extended.

PNC formally concludes meeting after electing PLO leadership

Combined agency dispatches

ALGIERS — The Palestine National Council (PNC) formally ended its 18th session in Algiers early Sunday after skirting a stormy dispute over Egypt with a compromise and electing a new Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

For the first time since they split four years ago, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and two of his hitherto rival Nayef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and George Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), appeared hand-in-hand and smiling as the council closed in the early hours of Sunday.

Only hours before, the three were locked in a bitter dispute over the PLO's relations with Egypt; Mr. Arafat was insisting that he should be given a free hand in continuing relations with the government of President Hosni Mubarak while Mr. Hawatmeh and Dr. Habash pressed with their demand that the PLO chairman cut off all links with Cairo.

Algerian and Soviet mediation to settle the row culminated in a closed-door meeting among Mr. Arafat, Mr. Hawatmeh and Dr. Habash for over one hour. When the three emerged from the talks, they announced that all differences were ironed out. The concluding session of the PNC, which was delayed over the dispute, was convened immediately, with resolutions of the PNC being read out at the session.

Key points of the political re-

solutions included:

— Future relations with Jordan "will be based on a confederation between two independent states."

— "The Palestinian people has the legitimate right to return to its homeland, to self-determination and to establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital."

— The PNC rejects "any attempt to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people, share in its representation or create an alternative to the PLO."

— It pledged to "continue the armed struggle to liberate our lands from Israeli occupation and to oppose all imperialist-Zionist schemes, especially the Israeli-American alliance."

— It reiterated PLO rejection of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

— It rejected "all peace initiatives and deals that neglect Palestinian rights, including Camp David, the Reagan initiative and so-called self-rule."

— It reaffirmed endorsement of the peace plan offered by the Arab states at their Fez summit meeting in 1982, proposing mutual Arab-Israeli recognition and peaceful coexistence in return for a total Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, Gaza and Arab Jerusalem.

— It pledged to "continue working to rectify relations with Syria on the basis of Syria's declared policy of confrontation with Israel and the United States."

— It endorsed the proposal for an international peace conference comprising all five permanent

members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties to the conflict including the PLO with equal status.

The resolution said the council "appreciates the importance of Egypt on both the regional and international level and stresses the importance of Egypt's return to the Arab fold."

But it added: "The PNC authorises the Executive Committee of the PLO to determine future relations between the PLO and Egypt on the basis of resolutions adopted at previous sessions, especially the 16th session, as well as resolutions of Arab summit meetings to this effect."

Mr. Mubarak earlier Saturday ordered his observer delegation to walk out of the council session in protest against the hardliners' stand on Egypt.

In a message to Mr. Arafat earlier, Mr. Mubarak had warned that adoption of the hard-line wording "will certainly lead to a total break in all PLO-Egyptian relations."

Deputy PLO commander Khalil Wazir told reporters that Mr. Arafat felt Palestinian unity took priority over relations with Egypt.

"Our priority was our unity and now it's been restored," he said.

He added that the newly-appointed PLO Executive Committee, dominated by Arafat loyalists, would determine future relations with Egypt.

Following are the newly elected members of the PLO Executive Committee, with their

(Continued on page 3)

Philippines army on full alert amid rumours of new revolt

MANILA (Agencies) — Troops were on full alert in Manila on Sunday after rumours of yet another revolt by disgruntled soldiers.

Armed forces chief General Fidel Ramos ordered the new alert a week after forces loyal to President Corazon Aquino quashed a mutiny by a handful of renegade soldiers.

By nightfall no hostile forces had been detected in Manila, military spokesman Colonel Emiliano Templo told Reuters.

He said rumours "were a weekend delight" and added: "Our weekend is not complete without alerts."

Mrs. Aquino has survived four coup attempts and several coup conspiracies since taking office last year.

Meanwhile, opposition candidate Vicente Puyat appealed for a 30-day ceasefire between government and rebel forces, warning that the May 11 congressional elections could be "very bloody and very violent."

Noting reports of daily clashes between the government and communist rebels, Mr. Puyat said an escalation of fighting could deprive millions of Filipinos of

the right to vote.

At least 30 people, five of them candidates, have been killed in election-linked violence since campaigning began in February, military statistics show.

In another development, spokesmen for the rebel National Democratic Front (NDF) denied that the guerrillas sent extortion letters to foreign embassies and said the notes could have been fabricated by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency or the Philippine military.

On Friday, the government announced that such letters had been received by the embassies of Switzerland, Austria, The Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Norway, Spain and Sweden but gave no details. The letters were signed "NPA (New People's Army)."

Satur Ocampo of the NDF denied that the New People's Army had sent any extortion letters.

"We don't know if it is the CIA or the psy-war (psychological warfare) department of the armed forces that did this," Ocampo said in an interview in Laguna province.

هذه هي الصورة الأصلية

Lebanese police report 5 killed in 'routine violence'

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Police said Sunday five people were shot dead in "routine violence" in Beirut and South Lebanon over the last 24 hours.

They said 60 suspects were rounded up on charges of involvement in bombing attacks that hit the capital's western sector after Syria's military intervention on Feb. 22.

A few hours after the police announcement, a dynamite stick exploded in the low-income Basta district, bringing to 76 the number of such blasts in Syrian-policed west Beirut.

Police said the latest blast shattered windows at a bakery and damaged nearby cars, but caused no casualties.

No group has claimed responsibility for any of the bombings that had become a daily ritual in an apparent attempt to discredit Syria's law enforcement.

The explosion at the bakery ended a 3-day respite during which the bombers apparently observed a nation-wide strike called by the General Confederation of Labour to protest soaring

prices and worsening living conditions. The strike ended Sunday. Police said four men and a woman were killed in separate clashes between dawn Saturday and dawn Sunday. The statement described the clashes as "routine violence."

An estimated 125,000 people have been killed since the civil war broke out in April 1975.

The woman was cut down by snipers as Falangist and opposition militiamen duelled across Beirut's dividing green line, police said.

Two men were killed during a family feud in a Shi'ite Muslim neighbourhood of Beirut, and two were shot dead in a personal vendetta in the southern port of Tyre, a predominantly Shi'ite city, police reported.

The leftist daily As Safir said among the 60 unnamed suspects held in connection with the west

Beirut bombing spree was the "gang leader who confessed that he had been paid \$340,000 by a non-Lebanese faction to carry out the bombings." It did not elaborate.

Another police report said that three militiamen have been rounded up by Syrian troops Saturday in connection with the looting of west Beirut's Commodore Hotel last February.

The hotel, once the centre of foreign journalists covering the Middle East, was looted during fighting in west Beirut between Shi'ite and Druze militiamen shortly before Syria sent 7,500 troops to quell the anarchy. The detainees were handed over to the Lebanese authorities, the terse report said.

The Commodore sustained heavy damage during the week-long battles, prompting its London-based owners to close it down.

But the staff have agreed to use their paid indemnities to repair and start the hotel anew as a cooperative.

Tunisia 'declaring war' on extremism

TUNIS (R) — A close aide to Tunisian Prime Minister Rachid Sfar believes that Islamic extremists, involved in violent clashes in the centre of Tunis on Thursday, are attempting to undermine the government and seize power.

"They are trying to undermine the government to seize power. We firmly intend to fight these people," the official told Reuters in the government seat at La Kasbah late Saturday.

"We are declaring war on them," he said. Demonstrators belonging to the Islamic Tendency Movement (ITM) chanted slogans hostile to the government of President Habib Bourguiba and in favour of detained ITM leader Rachid Ghamouchi before clashing with the police, eyewitnesses said.

Mr. Ghamouchi, a former philosophy teacher, was detained last month shortly before Tunisia broke off diplomatic relations with Iran.

The demonstration, staged one week ahead of the fasting month of Ramadan, a period of strict religious observance in the Islamic World, was conceived as a challenge to the government, according to one foreign diplomat.

"This show of strength has above all a political significance," he said.

Two policemen were injured, five police cars damaged and two shop windows smashed, according to the Tunisian News Agency TAP. Other sources said about 10 people, including passers-by, were injured in the brief but violent clashes.

Several hundred youths took part in the demonstration around the city but only about 100 were involved in the confrontations with police. Eyewitnesses said the demonstrators jeered at Tunisians wearing Western dress, calling them unbelievers and heretics.

The ITM deploras what it sees as a loosening of morals resulting from the influence of capitalist societies. But it has not called for a brake on tourism.

Tunisian authorities have voiced concern that reports of the demonstration, abroad, would adversely affect tourism, one of the country's main sources of hard currency.

Tunisia suffered last year after the Israeli raid on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in the Tunis suburbs in October 1985. However, it is increasing this year and most hotels are booked until August.

The Tunisian press defended the government and said Thursday's clashes should open up the eyes of the population, most of whom it said were hostile to fanaticism.

La Presse said it would show "the contradictions of a movement which resorts to violence, terror... while issuing tracts in which it pretends to respect public liberties and democracy."

Arrests in Paris confuse Beirut hostage picture

By Simon Haydon
Reuter

PARIS — Recent arrests by police have boosted hopes of catching the bombers who staged attacks across France last year, but have confused the French view of Lebanon, where six Frenchmen are held hostage, according to police sources and diplomats.

French police last week brought in eight people, charging two with possessing explosives. Charges against the rest are expected to be made this week, the sources said.

The eight, plus eight others arrested last month, are of various nationalities.

Police, however, believe all are linked to a Lebanese individual or group responsible for placing the bombs in March and September last year that killed 13 people and injured more than 250.

France's Counter-Espionage Agency, DST, has been responsible for breaking up what it believes is the infrastructure behind the bombings. But the latest

arrests raise the complex question that Lebanese Falangists and the opposition, bitter rivals at home, may have combined to attack France.

"Has there been a holy terrorist alliance?" the daily Le Monde asked on Saturday.

Western diplomats say the DST has made major breakthroughs in bailing bomb attacks, but that political and diplomatic efforts to free the hostages have been complicated by confusion over who may be holding them.

Lebanese national Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, jailed for life earlier this year for complicity in the 1982 murders of a U.S. and an Israeli diplomat.

Abdallah, suspected head of the far-left Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction (FARL), is a Christian. France also sought Abdallah's four brothers, accusing them of playing a part in the attacks.

But police sources now say some of the detained suspects appear to have links with pro-Iranian Muslim groups in Lebanon.

The Paris daily Le Figaro, often reliable on intelligence matters, wrote on Saturday: "Among the factions which share out Lebanon, an understanding between FARL, a pro-Palestinian, Christian-Marxist group, and the Shi'ite Hizbollah Movement, does not appear to be unreasonable."

Police sources said the cases of the six Tunisian citizens and two French arrested last month on explosives charges, and that of

the two Moroccans charged last week were linked.

Mr. Chirac's government, anxious to avoid running efforts to normalise relations with Tehran has cautiously welcomed the arrests although it appears to link Tehran with the attacks.

Government spokesman Denis Baudouin said the arrests would "have no effect for the moment on relations between France and Iran."

France has tried to improve relations with Tehran by paying back \$330 million of a \$1-billion loan made by Iran to France before the shah was toppled by the present government.

But there has been little sign of any of the remaining five hostages being released. The "execution" of a sixth, Sociologist Michel Seurat, was announced by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad in March last year but his body has never been found.

As well as the arrests, police have in the last six weeks uncovered large arms caches scattered around Paris and its suburbs.

SLA militiamen attack U.N. troops, kill woman

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Pro-Israeli militiamen fired on U.N. peacekeeping troops in South Lebanon Sunday, killing a middle-aged Lebanese woman passer-by, police said.

They said Saada Izzedine, 50, was shot dead when machinegun fire from the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia raked a position held by Nepalese U.N. troops at Yater village, 17 kilometres south east of Tyre.

No casualties were reported among the Nepalese, members of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Yater is on the edge of an Israeli-declared border security zone set up in 1985 when most Israeli troops withdrew after a three-year occupation of the South.

On Tuesday, police said a Lebanese civilian was wounded in the U.N.-controlled village of

Ghandouriyeh by fire from the zone, where the U.N. is supported by some 1,000 Israelis.

In and around Tyre, Shi'ite Muslim guerrillas stayed on alert Sunday following a recent surge of cross-border attacks and Israeli air raids, witnesses said.

Civilians have been preparing makeshift air raid shelters in basements, fearing more military action by Israel to deter further attacks across the frontier or in the huffer zone.

Israeli aircraft scattered thousands of leaflets over the south on Thursday, warning local people not to help Palestinian commandos if they wanted to avoid Israeli "iron fist tactics."

Israeli helicopter gunships struck at Palestinian targets in South Lebanon three times last week after commandos penetrated the border for the first time in several years.

UNRWA delivers new supplies to Palestinian refugees

VIENNA (Agencies) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) has made new delivery of food and medicine to Beirut Al Barajneh Camp.

The supplies, in two trucks and van, were donated by the Turkish government.

Equal amounts were given to the Amal Social Bureau and to the representative of the Sunni population.

It was the first UNRWA convoy to enter Beirut Al Barajneh since March 14. Both this camp and nearby Shatila camp have been under siege since November but an UNRWA convoy was able to enter Shatila on April 26.

Iran opposes superpower intervention in Gulf

ABU DHABI (R) — Iran told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sunday that it opposed superpower intervention in the Gulf and wanted good relations with Gulf Arab states, Iranian sources said.

They said the message from Iranian President Ali Khamenei to UAE President Sheikh Zaid Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan reflected Iranian concern over an increase in superpower activity in the Gulf.

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Lawyers ask to publish details of Israeli officer's case

TEL AVIV (AP) — Lawyers for an army officer convicted of espionage asked the supreme court on Sunday to allow them to publish details of the case to disprove what they said were lies leaked by government officials.

The supreme court said it would consider the request on May 10.

The defendant, Azat Nafso, 32, claims he is innocent. He has said the Shin Bet internal security service extracted his confession using illegal means and gave false testimony in court.

In 1981, a military court convicted Nafso, a member of Israel's Circassian community, of espionage, treason and transferring weapons to the enemy. He was sentenced to 18 years in prison. A military appeals court upheld the verdict.

The supreme court agreed earlier this month to hear Nafso's appeal, but barred the defence from making public details of the military trials.

Nafso's attorney, Moshe Kammer, said in a telephone interview he wanted to publish excerpts from the trials to disprove "disinformation" leaked by government officials who he said were trying to discredit his client.

Kammer cited three examples of reports that appeared in newspapers last week and called them "outright lies."

According to one of them, prosecutors presented enough evidence to convict Nafso even without his confession.

But the newspaper Haaretz on Sunday published an excerpt from the trial, which appeared to back the defence contention that Nafso was convicted on the strength of his confession.

Sudan to mourn last Al Ansar Imam

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan Sunday announced two days of mourning for the death 17 years ago of the last Imam of the Muslim Al Ansar sect, amid a controversy following the reported discovery of his body.

State Radio Omdurman said the mourning from Monday was approved by Sudan's Supreme Council on the recommendation of an all-party committee organising the burial ceremony.

Imam Al Hadi Al Mahdi, spiritual leader of the two to three million Al Ansars, died in mysterious circumstances in 1970 while trying to flee to neighbouring Ethiopia.

His death followed an abortive revolt he led against President Jaafar Numeiri, who was ousted in a 1985 army coup.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, nephew of the late Imam, said his body and those of two aides had been exhumed and

would be buried with full honours in a ceremony Monday.

The Imam will be buried in the Mahdist Dome in Khartoum on the Nile. Thousands of Ansars are expected to attend the ceremony, along with representatives of Sudanese political parties and trade unions.

His son, Wali Eddin Al Mahdi, however, said in a newspaper interview there was no proof that the exhumed body was his father's. He accused Prime Minister Mahdi of manipulating family members for political gain.

Ansars are descended from tribesmen who supported the 19th century Imam Al Mahdi in ending the Turkish-Egyptian occupation of Sudan and establishment of the 1885-98 militant Muslim Mahdist state.

Imam Al Hadi Al Mahdi was the grandson of the 19th century Mahdi and was the sect's last

elected religious leader.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said in a statement last week that a committee he set up after taking office last year to investigate the death of his uncle had found the body in an unmarked grave near the Ethiopian border.

He said the late imam was killed in cold blood. The official Sudan News Agency SUNA said Sunday that eight people were being held for questioning in connection with the imam's death.

The late imam's son hinted in newspaper comments on Friday that his uncle, the prime minister, wanted to become the imam.

Industry Minister Mubarak Al Mahdi, a member of the prime minister's Umma Party, said in remarks published Sunday he regretted Wali Eddin Al Mahdi's statements, describing them as contrary to "human and religious ethics."

Guardian Mideast correspondent awarded Cameron memorial prize

THE first James Cameron memorial award has been made to David Hirst, the Guardian's chief Middle East correspondent, for his coverage of Arab affairs.

He will receive his £1,000 prize from Mrs. Momi Cameron, the widow of the distinguished reporter and columnist, at the City University, London, next Tuesday, when the first Cameron memorial lecture will also be delivered.

Benjamin C. Bradlee, the executive editor of the Washington Post, will speak on a theme worthy of Cameron's sharp pen: On Lying.

The annual award derives from the memorial fund set up by the Guardian in January last year.

Mr. Hirst, who has covered the Middle East for the Guardian since 1971, showed a "unique combination of sympathy for Arab aspirations with a critical

Turkey to open arms fair

ANKARA (R) — NATO-member Turkey opens its first arms fair Monday, with major international suppliers drawn by the country's need to modernise its military equipment.

The week-long defence equipment and avionics exhibition at Etimesgut Airfield, outside Ankara, is also planned as a major marketplace for merchants and buyers from many countries.

West German General Wolfgang Altenburg, chairman of NATO's Military Committee, and British Defence Secretary George Younger will be among speakers at the opening ceremony.

Equipment on show includes three advanced combat aircraft — the French Mirage 2000, the British-West German-Italian Tornado and the U.S. F-16.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.			
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77311-19 PROGRAMME ONE 15:30 Koran 15:50 Programme Review 15:55 Cartoons and children's programme 17:00 Children's scientific programme 17:30 World of Strange Powers 18:00 Arabic Series 19:00 Local debate 19:30 Local Programme on the Armed Forces 19:50 Programme Review 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Message from Oman 20:40 Arabic Series 21:20 Cultural panel discussion 21:55 Tomorrow's Programmes 22:00 Arabic Series 23:00 News Summary in Arabic 23:10 Close down PROGRAMME TWO 18:00 Felician Grecoche 19:00 News in French 19:15 Spot magazine (French) 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Magazine Zero One 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Ever Decreasing Circles 21:10 Moonlighting 22:00 News in English 22:20 Out on a Limb RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.0 KHz. SW Tel: 77411-19 07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsdesk 08:00 Morning Show 10:00 News Summary 10:05 Just a Minute 11:00 Follow the Wind 12:00 News Summary 12:05 30-Minute Theatre 13:00 News Summary 13:05 Pop Session Cont'd. 14:00 News Bulletin 14:30 Just a Minute 15:00 Concert Hour 16:00 News Summary 16:05 Instrumentals 16:30 Old Favourites 17:00 Men from the Ministry 17:30 Pop Session 18:00 News Summary 18:05 Sports Roundup 18:30 Music Desk 19:00 Date with a Star 19:30 Evening Show 21:00 News Summary		11:05 Evening Show Cont'd. 22:00 News Summary 22:05 Evening Show Cont'd. 23:00 News Summary 23:05 Evening Show Continued 24:00 Close Down BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1323 KHz 07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 A Night to Remember 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Waveguide 08:00 World News 08:09 24 Hours News Summary 08:30 Nature Notebook 08:45 Recording of the Week 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Former Flashpoints 10:00 World News 10:09 24 Hours News Summary 10:30 Hour Drama 11:00 World News 11:09 Reflections 11:15 A Night to Remember 12:00 World News 12:09 British Press Review 12:15 Good Books 12:30 Financial News 12:45 Peaches' Choice 13:00 News Summary: Former Flashpoints 13:30 The Vintage Chart Show 14:00 World News 14:09 About Britain 14:15 Training for Tomorrow 14:30 Album Time 15:00 Radio Newsreel 15:15 Masterbrain 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:09 24 Hours News Summary 16:30 You Ain't Heard Nothin' Yet! 17:00 News Summary: Outlook 17:45 Hotel du Lac 18:00 Radio Newsreel 18:15 Former Flashpoints 18:45 Sportsround 19:00 World News 19:09 Commentary 19:15 Here's Health! 19:30 Performing Arts Music 20:15 The History of Radio Comedy 20:30 New Ideas 20:40 Book Choice 20:45 The History of Radio Comedy 20:50 Sports Roundup 21:30 Newsdesk 22:30 Stock Market Report 06:15 Performing Early Music 06:30 Vintage Chart Show 06:15 Here's Health! 02:30 Financial News VOICE OF AMERICA MW 1260 & SW 720, 9505, 11740, 11925 and 1320 KHz 05:00 News 05:10 Newsline 05:30 VOA Morning 06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 08:40 Newsline 08:50 Newsline 09:00 Newsline 09:10 Newsline 09:20 Newsline 09:30 Newsline 09:40 Newsline 09:50 Newsline 10:00 Newsline 10:10 Newsline 10:20 Newsline 10:30 Newsline 10:40 Newsline 10:50 Newsline 11:00 Newsline 11:10 Newsline 11:20 Newsline 11:30 Newsline 11:40 Newsline 11:50 Newsline 12:00 Newsline 12:10 Newsline 12:20 Newsline 12:30 Newsline 12:40 Newsline 12:50 Newsline 13:00 Newsline 13:10 Newsline 13:20 Newsline 13:30 Newsline 13:40 Newsline 13:50 Newsline 14:00 Newsline 14:10 Newsline 14:20 Newsline 14:30 Newsline 14:40 Newsline 14:50 Newsline 15:00 Newsline 15:10 Newsline 15:20 Newsline 15:30 Newsline 15:40 Newsline 15:50 Newsline 16:00 Newsline 16:10 Newsline 16:20 Newsline 16:30 Newsline 16:40 Newsline 16:50 Newsline 17:00 Newsline 17:10 Newsline 17:20 Newsline 17:30 Newsline 17:40 Newsline 17:50 Newsline 18:00 Newsline 18:10 Newsline 18:20 Newsline 18:30 Newsline 18:40 Newsline 18:50 Newsline 19:00 Newsline 19:10 Newsline 19:20 Newsline 19:30 Newsline 19:40 Newsline 19:50 Newsline 20:00 Newsline 20:10 Newsline 20:20 Newsline 20:30 Newsline 20:40 Newsline 20:50 Newsline 21:00 Newsline 21:10 Newsline 21:20 Newsline 21:30 Newsline 21:40 Newsline 21:50 Newsline 22:00 Newsline 22:10 Newsline 22:20 Newsline 22:30 Newsline 22:40 Newsline 22:50 Newsline 23:00 Newsline 23:10 Newsline 23:20 Newsline 23:30 Newsline 23:40 Newsline 23:50 Newsline 24:00 Newsline		TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS * An exhibition of children's books from Britain at Abdel Hamed Shoman Foundation in Shamsa (April 26-28) * An art exhibition by Ahmad Na'wash at the French Cultural Centre (until May 6) CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL * 2nd Spring Festival for children, at the Royal Cultural Centre, (until April 28) CINEMA * "Fanny" at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre. * "A Star is Born" at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre. CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267 American Centre .. 64371 British Council .. 6361478 French Cultural Centre .. 637009 Goethe Institute .. 641992 Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre .. 624049 Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777 Haya Arts Centre .. 665195 Husseini Youth City .. 6671816 Y.W.C.A. .. 641793 Y.W.M.C.A. .. 664251 Amman Municipal Library .. 637111 Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555 MUSEUMS "Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday. Foldover Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 55200-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 18:00 Agaba (RJ) 18:20 Doha (RJ) 18:30 Bucharest (RJ) 18:40 Kuwait (RJ) 18:50 Damascus (RJ) 19:00 Baghdad (RJ) 19:10 Cairo (RJ) 19:20 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ) 19:30 Moscow, Dubai (RJ) 19:40 Larnaca (RJ) 19:50 Cairo (RJ) 19:55 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ) 20:00 Bangkok (RJ) 20:10 Baghdad (RJ) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 08:00 Cairo, London (BA) 09:20 Cairo (MS) 11:10 Frankfurt (LH) 12:30 Bucharest (RJ) 12:35 Kuwait (RJ) 16:20 Ankara, Istanbul (TK) 16:40 Bahrain (GF) 18:30 Baghdad (IA) MONEY EXCHANGE Sunday rates Belgian franc... 87.71 / 89.4 Dutch guilder... 162.8 / 164.7 French franc... 55.1 / 55.8 Italian lire... 25.5 / 26 Japanese yen (for 100)... 235.4 / 239.2 Swedish crown... 52.4 / 52.9 Swiss franc... 224.8 / 228.5 U.K. sterling pound... 544.6 / 551.3 U.S. dollar... 327.9 / 330.8 W. German mark... 183.8 / 186.4 PRAYER TIMES 04:26 Fajr 05:51 Sunrise/Duha 12:33 Dhuhar 16:12 Asr 19:15 Maghreb 20:41 Isha DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 07:45 Agaba (RJ) 12:30 Paris (LH) 14:00 Bucharest (RJ) 14:30 Kuwait (RJ) 15:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TK) 16:45 Bahrain, Larnaca (GF) 17:30 Baghdad (IA) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 07:45 Agaba (RJ) 12:30 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ) 14:00 Larnaca (RJ) 14:30 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ) 16:20 Cairo (RJ) 16:30 Kuwait, Doha (RJ) 21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 22:00 Baghdad (RJ) 22:05 Jeddah (RJ) 22:15 Cairo (RJ)		EMERGENCIES Amman governorate... 891228 Amman Civil Defence... 198, 199 Civil Defence Irbid... 271293, 273131 Civil Defence Qadisiyah... 70733 Civil Defence Deir Alla... 57306 Ambulance... 193, 75111 Amman downtown fire brigade... 198 First aid... 630341 Blood Bank... 778503 Civil Defence... 961111 Fire headquarters... 622090-3 Police headquarters... 639141 Traffic police... 8963901 Electric Power Co. 6363814, 634881 Municipal water complaints 7712258 Queen Alia Intl. Airport (08) 5330060 HOSPITALS Hassan Medical Centre... 813813/2 Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn... 642816 Al-Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn... 642441/2 Jabbal Amman Maternity... 642362 Malhas, J. Amman... 636140 Palestine, Shamsa... 6647114 Shamsa Hospital... 669151 University Hospital... 963845 Al-Musafir Hospital... 6672719 The Islamic, Abdali... 66612757 Al-Ahli, Abdali... 6641646 Al-Mahdhar, J. Amn... 7771015 Al-Basrah, J. Ashrafieh... 891611/2 Queen Alia Hospital... 602240/50 Amal Hospital... 674155 GENERAL Jordan Television... 7731119 Radio Jordan... 7741171 Ministry of Tourism... 642311 Hotel complaints... 666412 Police complaints... 661176 Telephone Information... 12 Jordan and Middle East calls... 10 Overseas calls... 17 Repair service... 11 NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Mohammad Horani... 898552 Dr. Munir Qasbi... 898101 Salam Pharmacy... 636730 Naboukh Pharmacy... 723672 Safar Pharmacy... 668056 Rafid Pharmacy... 778663 First pharmacy... 661912 Himawi pharmacy... 845376 Al Farwos pharmacy... 787336 TAXIS: Khaldi taxi... 623775 Jerusalem taxi... 639655 Hebron taxi... 776100 Banana taxi... 893433 Al Salah taxi... 896264 Siyah taxi... 646319 Kurdi taxi... 847572 IRBID: Dr. Nidal Obaidi... (-) Al Hassan pharmacy... (-) Al Shamsa pharmacy... (-) ZARQA: Dr. Mohammad Yagmour... 953299 Al Salam pharmacy... (-)	
MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Apple (Lebanese & Turkish) 310 / 270 Apple (French) 380 / 340 Banana 350 / 300 Banana (Mukammal) 300 / 240 Beans (local) 260 / 230 Broad beans 160 / 100 Broccoli 100 / 70 Carrot (yellow) 100 / 70 Cauliflower 180 / 140 Cucumbers 180 / 140 Eggplant (large) 140 / 100 Eggplant (small) 140 / 100 Garlic (green) 270 / 200 Lemon 180 / 120 Mallow 350 / 300 Marrow 230 / 170 Onion (dry) 160 / 120 Onion (green) 160 / 120 Orange (local) 160 / 100 Orange (Shamsa) 250 / 200 Peanut 250 / 200 Pepper (hot) 270 / 200 Pepper (sweet) 250 / 200 Potato 160 / 120 Radish 120 / 80 Spinach 150 / 100 Tomatoes 120 / 80 Turnip 90 / 60 Vine leaves 620 / 590		سكنا من الجبل							

Contractors call for pool of Arab resources, expertise

AMMAN (Petra) — The executive bureau of the Arab Contractors Union (ACU) has concluded a meeting in Amman with a commendation calling on Arab countries to set up a pan-Arab development company, which will pool Arab countries' resources and expertise in construction and development. The bureau also recommended that the contractors union of Egypt be called to join as a full and active member of the ACU.

In announcing the recommendations, Mr. Awmi Al Saket, ACU's deputy chairman, said that the proposed company is needed to help create jobs for workers in the Arab World, and boost the nation's drive towards overall development. The establishment of the company is bound to ease the impact of economic recession now prevailing in Arab countries, Mr. Saket added.

He said that the bureau's meeting reviewed preparations for establishing such a company which will involve Arab expertise in construction and development projects, and as consultants and advisors.

Final studies on the establishment of the proposed company are scheduled to be completed in six months. All those involved in the company will be Arab nationals, Mr. Saket added.

Hawamdeh meets members of executive bureau

Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh met here Sunday with the ACU executive bureau and voiced Jordan's appreciation of the union's decision to open its first branch office for Arab and Asian countries in Amman.

Mr. Hawamdeh said that Jordanian government, in particular the Ministry of Public Works, will offer all possible support to the ACU and will provide it with facilities to help it carry out its mission.

The minister said that Jordan was willing to help in the general Arab effort to Arabise terms used in the contracting business.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the idea of establishing a pan-Arab development company, an initial study of which has been carried out by the ACU. This company, he said, is bound to help bolster the Arab economy in general and the contracting sector in particular.

The ACU's executive bureau is currently holding a meeting in Amman to discuss topics related to supporting Arab contractors through projects financed by different Arab funds as well as a general ACU report.

W. Bank education staff to receive extra allowances as of May 2

By Lima Nabli
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs has completed all arrangements to pay extra allowances to teachers and education officials in the occupied Arab territory as of Saturday May 2, and the payment will be retroactive covering the past four months, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin announced in Amman on Sunday.

He told a press conference that a total of JD 984,325 will be paid to 7,054 staff employed by the ministry at education departments and schools and that the payment will be through the Cairo-Amman Bank in Nablus.

The minister noted that the allowance is completely separate and in addition to a JD 10 million sum allocated by the government for this year's economic and social projects in the West Bank. This allowance, he said, is to be paid from the Jordanian Treasury in implementation of a decision by the higher committee for supporting the steadfastness of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Teachers in Gaza

Referring to Gaza, Mr. Dudin

said that work is underway to allocate allowances for teachers employed by education departments in the Gaza Strip. At least 2,728 teachers and employees of education departments in Gaza Strip's government schools will benefit from these allowances which amount to JD 186,625, covering the first three months of this year, the minister noted.

In the future, the government will offer allowances to other sectors' employees in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, depending on available means, Mr. Dudin said. A decision to pay the allowances was taken by the government earlier this year in view of the difficult economic conditions in the Israeli-held Arab territory.

With reference to the West Bank universities, Mr. Dudin said that the Jordanian government and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were helping the institutes through the higher education council in the West Bank. Jordan supports the higher education council in the West Bank and hopes that it will continue to shoulder its task in handling assistance to Arab universities in the occupied territory, the minister added.

The minister made it clear that the allowances paid to teachers and education officials amount to



Marwan Dudin

50 per cent of the basic salary of each employee, in accordance with the higher committee's decision. He said that payments have been based on lists of employees drawn up by directors of education in the occupied territory and which were forwarded to the ministry in Amman.

Apart from school teachers, staff of community colleges in Arroub, Ramallah and Tulkarm will receive allowances, the minister pointed out. He said that each employee will receive an allowance ranging from JD 21 to JD 56 and that employees can collect the money by calling at the bank in Nablus or by delegating other persons to receive the allocated allowances.

SSC expansion to provide wider coverage

AMMAN (Petra) — Approximately 50,000 people will benefit from new measures for the expansion of the Social Security Corporation (SSC), which were announced Saturday after a Cabinet meeting, according to Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan. He said Sunday that the SSC already provides services for 406,000 people, of whom 68 per cent are Jordanians and the remainder are non-Jordanian Arab and non-Arab citizens working in the country.

The Cabinet on Saturday announced a decision to expand the SSC to cover other groups not presently included in the SSC law which has been in force since 1980. A Cabinet statement said that as of June 1, 1987, all companies and private businesses employing five or more persons are to be included in the SSC law. Earlier, only those companies and businesses employing 10 persons or more were able to join the SSC.

The Cabinet statement said all Jordanian nationals working for regional and international diplomatic missions, or other institutions affiliated with these institutions, are to join the SSC by June 1, 1987. Institutions that employ less than five persons can join provided that they do not withdraw once they join.

The Cabinet statement said all Jordanians could optionally be covered by the SSC law against old age, death and disability in accordance with regulations still to be issued by the SSC.

Mr. Haj Hassan noted that in July 1986 a government decision was taken to include Jordanian expatriates in the SSC on a voluntary basis. With the inclusion of the estimated 50,000 people in the SSC, the total number will become 456,000, not including those who are still to join the SSC on an optional basis.

Zay National Park opens with ceremony, speeches

SALT (Petra) — The Zay National Park was formally opened Sunday at a ceremony held under the patronage of Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan, chairman of the board of directors of the Tourist Investment Corporation (TIC).

The park was set up on a 15-dunum area of land and contains restaurants, cafeterias, spacious yards and car parks, as well as children's sections; and can accommodate 3,000 visitors. An Arab Diwan (large oriental pavilion) has been installed for parties and can accommodate 120 guests.

For the occasion, Mr. Zuhair Ajlouni, TIC director, made a speech in which he announced

the TIC's intention to open a holiday resort at Azraq oasis northeast of Amman during the coming summer, and to establish more than 20 resthouses in and around the Kingdom in order to provide more facilities for tourists.

The opening of the Zay Park, following the opening of two Dead Sea resorts and the Dibbin Tourist Village over the past two years, reflects the TIC's determination to promote domestic tourism, Mr. Ajlouni noted.

The minister and the guests toured the park and were briefed on services the park will offer guests. Balqa Governor Mihjem Khreissha was among guests attending the opening ceremony.

Reception launches lively Arabic literacy series

AMMAN (J.T.) — A reception under the patronage of Mrs. Leila Sharaf was held at the Regency Palace Hotel Sunday for the premiere showing of the Arabic television literacy series, "Al Manaahil".

This lively, educational and entertaining set of sixty-five half-hour television programmes is designed to supplement school curriculum and to advance the literacy skills of children aged between six and ten, according to a press release from the American Centre in Amman. The programme also hopes to attract an audience of older children and adults who have not mastered basic reading skills and wish to improve their abilities, the release said.

"Some people may find 'Al Manaahil' strange at the beginning because we are used to being serious, solemn, and direct in teaching," said Mrs. Sharaf. "However, with time, people of all ages will come to enjoy the programme as it passes information indirectly by combining modern television technology and human imagination."

The series was produced by arrangement between Jordan Television, the Jordan Company for TV, Radio, and Cinema Production, Ltd., and the Children's Television Workshop, New York, an internationally-known, non-profit production company which has produced highly successful children's educational television programmes throughout the world, the release said.

"Al Manaahil" was made possible by a \$5.9 million grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and contributions of equipment and technical personnel by Jordan Television. "This two-year American-Jordanian partnership has produced a high quality television series which puts Jordan in the forefront of countries using innovative educational techniques," said Lewis Reade, director of the USAID mission in Jordan.

AARRO ends meetings with call for greater cooperation in rural development plans

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The 9th general assembly of the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO) concluded its meetings Sunday calling on member countries to adopt coordinated plans for rural and infrastructure development.

For the past week, delegates from 14 African and Asian member countries have been focusing on means to overcome specific problems in rural development. During the conference's deliberations, the participants have been discussing appropriate policies and programmes for rural reconstruction in less developed countries.

B.C. Gangopadhyay, secretary general of AARRO, told the Jordan Times that the concept of rural reconstruction covers the entire sphere of development in rural areas and aims to provide adequate sources of income for the people. "Rural reconstruction needs an integrated approach," said Mr. Gangopadhyay.

Stressing the need for infrastructure, such as developing the lines of transportation and communication, the integrated approach includes development of land resources, animal husbandry, poultry farming, fisheries, agriculture and small scale industry, Mr. Gangopadhyay noted. He continued that credit, supply, marketing, cooperatives and facilities, family planning and health insurance must also be included.

"There is a need for one coordinated plan on the national and rural levels for implementing these plans," he said. During the closing session, the delegates advocated manpower training and resource development. "We have arranged training courses in several institutions in different countries," Mr. Gangopadhyay said. Over the next three years, five training courses will be held on rural health care and family planning in Egypt, the

distribution of water in rural regions in Jordan, the development of rural areas in South Korea, the effects of natural disasters, and reclamation of land in India.

Over the past 25 years, AARRO has established centres offering training courses and conducts research on various development issues pertinent to rural reconstruction. Fellowships have been granted to individuals in member countries for training programmes.

Five workshops will also be held in the course of the three-year period. The first will be held in India during June on rural unemployment. In August, Japan will host another workshop on cooperative development, he continued.

Delegates approved study visits by specialists of member countries, and the exchange of experts between member countries. In addition member countries will embark on several pilot projects relevant to each country's development.

The delegates called for continued dissemination of information through AARRO's various publications among African and Asian countries and other countries interested in receiving them. "AARRO is not a financial organisation," said Mr. Gangopadhyay. "Our aim is to bring countries together to share their experiences, their success stories, problems they faced and methods used to overcome them. Each country will formulate its own scheme in light of those experiences," he continued.

Need to increase membership
Mr. Gangopadhyay claimed

that the main problem AARRO faces is increasing the membership, which presently stands at 26 African and Asian countries and one international organisation. "We want to widen our activities; however, many African and Asian countries with serious rural problems have not joined," he said.

He attributed the lack of membership to many countries' inability to pay membership fees, which are 10 to 15 per cent of the country's contribution to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). "However, we plan to conduct a study in order to pinpoint all the reasons for countries not participating," he added. Tunisia and Algeria have given their notice of withdrawal from AARRO, citing financial difficulties as the reasons.

AARRO collaborates with several international organisations to discuss specific problems. For example, the organisation deals with FAO on agricultural problems, World Health Organisation (WHO) on family planning, and International Labour Organisation (ILO) on labour problems, said Mr. Gangopadhyay.

When asked to assess this conference, Mr. Gangopadhyay said "this conference has brought a greater response, with more countries participating. I would consider this to be a better participatory effort than in the past."

Participating countries include Ethiopia, India, Egypt, Mauritius, Libya, Yemen, Morocco, Iraq, China, Turkey, Ghana, Malaysia, Japan and Jordan. In addition members from two non-governmental organisations, the Central Union Organisation for Cooperation, from Japan, and the Centre for Integrated Rural Development, from Tanzania also participated.

Delegates elected to AARRO's executive committee represent Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Sudan, Jordan, South Korea, India, Japan, Malaysia and Iraq.

W. German press attache Protz leaves for Dhaka

AMMAN (J.T.) — Alfred Protz of the West German embassy in Amman leaves for Dhaka today to take up a new post as first secretary in the Federal Republic of Germany's embassy in Bangladesh. Mr. Protz, known to all as Freddie, arrived in Jordan in May 1984 to serve as press and cultural attache.



Alfred Protz

"I've enjoyed my service here in Amman," Mr. Protz said. "It was very gratifying to work here, and to see that all your efforts have been fruitful," he added. "We have seen much progress on cultural projects which the West German embassy has initiated. We have always felt the full support from our Jordanian partners," he said.

His wife Hermine and children Martin, 3, and Bettina, 1, will follow Mr. Protz to Dhaka.

Cabinet okays committee for expatriates conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet announced its approval of establishing a committee to be entrusted with preparing for the Third Jordanian Expatriates Conference, due to be held in Amman between July 13 and 16.

The committee, which is chaired by Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan, comprises the under secretaries of the Ministries of Justice, Interior, Information, Industry and Trade, Occupied Territories Affairs, Customs, Planning, Education and Higher Education, in addition to

representatives of the Armed Forces, Al Hussein Youth City, the Foreign Ministry, the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Amman Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, the Central Bank of Jordan, the Tourism Authority and Royal Jordanian.

The committee is scheduled to hold its first meeting in Amman on Wednesday to begin preparations for the coming conference. It is also expected to review resolutions passed by the first and second expatriates conference held in Amman in 1985 and 1986.

Veteran workers honoured

AMMAN (Petra) — A ceremony was held at the Girls Comprehensive School in Amman Sunday honouring a group of veteran workers employed by the Greater Amman Municipality, the Public Transport Corporation and the girls school. The ceremony, held under the patronage of Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh, was in observance of Labour Day which is usually cele-

brated in Jordan on May 1. Addressing the ceremony, Mr. Rawabdeh said that honouring workers should encourage them to double their efforts in serving their society. Labour Day is also a reminder to Arab workers everywhere to increase their endeavours, along with all Arab citizens, to liberate their usurped land, Mr. Rawabdeh said.

Kuwait conference ends after review

(Continued from page 1)

the Kingdom. The two ministers presented a briefing on the scopes of investment in agricultural, tourist, and industrial sectors.

The two ministers also spoke about incentives given to investors and exemption from tax offered to Arab ventures in the Kingdom.

They said that studies on raw materials and salts extracted from the Dead Sea indicated that there was a great potential awaiting investors in such projects. They referred to the fact that financial institutions operating in Jordan are capable of handling any

volumes of financial investments. Dr. Odeh urged the expatriates to translate into practice their proposals and their promises at the two Jordanian expatriates conference held in Amman in the past two years.

The Jordanian government, Dr. Odeh said, is striving to adjust the Kingdom's balance of payments and increase exports and reduce imports as much as possible in order to make available sufficient hard currency.

A Jordanian expatriate, Mahmoud Mirza, told the meeting that the expatriates were contemplating the establishment of a holding company in cooperation

with Jordanian economic organisations despite the current economic recession in the Arab area.

Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Al Bahu said Sunday that the Kuwaiti government had been trying to involve businessmen and investors from other Arab countries in the Gulf region in the present promotional conference in Kuwait in order to open up more opportunities for investments in Jordan. He told the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Siyasa that the Kuwaiti government was giving due support for the conference and was keen on channelling economic investments to Jordan.

steering group between PNC sessions. The new members bring the total Central Council membership to 75.

A senior Egyptian official told Reuters in Cairo that Egypt would not sever relations with the PLO, which has offices in Cairo and enjoys strong diplomatic support from Egypt.

President Mubarak declined comment on the PLO row when he inaugurated development projects in Sinai on Sunday on the fifth anniversary of the Israeli army's evacuation from the peninsula.

PNC formally concludes Algiers session

(Continued from page 1)

affiliation and position in the organisation.

1. Yasser Arafat (Fateh), chairman;

2. Farouk Kaddoumi (Fateh), head of the PLO Political Department;

3. Mahmoud Abbas (Fateh);

4. Suleiman Al Najjah (Palestine Communist Party);

5. Yasser Ahd Rahho (DFLP);

6. Mustapha Al Zihri (PFLP);

7. Abdul Rahim Ahmad (Arab Liberation Front);

8. Mohammad Abbas (Palestine Liberation Front);

9. Archhishop Elias Khoury (independent);

10. Abdullah Hourani (independent);

11. Mahmoud Darwish (independent), a well-known poet;

12. Abdul Razzak Al Yahya (independent);

13. Jamal Sourani (independent);

14. Mohammad Milhem (independent);

15. Jaweed Ghossein (independent), head of the Palestine National Fund.

The PNC also elected 25 new members to the PLO Central Council, which acts as a legislative

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- No ministry, or governmental department, or any official public establishment, or any local authority including municipalities and public shareholding companies, or any other entity is allowed to conclude a contract with any contractor to perform works in the Kingdom unless the contractor was duly registered with the Association.

(c) The provisions of paragraphs (a & b) of this article shall not apply to contracts signed before effective date of this law.

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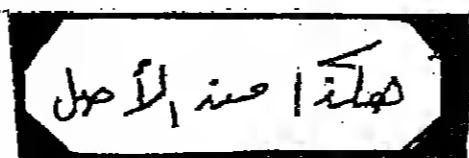
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Every thing goes!

THERE is an all-too-familiar sound to the resolutions that have been adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) in its 18th session in Algiers over the past week. It is the sound that was heard from the PLO following its forced departure from Beirut and South Lebanon in 1982, and it is the same sound that would most probably continue to be heard as long as the political landscape in the Middle East remains essentially unchanged.

The resolutions of the 18th PNC can be described — or understood — as a reaffirmation of those adopted by the 16th session that was held in Algiers in 1982, only months after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in that year.

To the PLO, the resolutions mean that the fighting Palestinians will not accept defeat. To the watchful rest, the resolutions imply an insignificant shift from the political situation that prevailed five years ago.

The intervening period is, of course, of great historical importance, but not in terms of political realities. The political landscape of the Middle East today is not essentially different from that of 1982, despite all the changes in outlooks and circumstances and players that existed then. And it is because the Palestinians, more than anybody else, who are the first to realise this that we have turned a full cycle to go back to where we were years ago.

This is talk in general terms. Talk in specifics is always a good material for history books, but not for our practical purposes. What is important here is to realise that it took the area, and particularly the Palestinians, five years and two PNCs to arrest history in order to go back to an old starting point.

Whose fault the arrest of history for so long is — remains to be seen. The more crucial issue, however, is whether the whole experience is worthwhile. Those of us who fully support the Palestinian people's struggle for their legitimate and inalienable rights cannot tell them what is right for them. We should limit ourselves to say what we think is going wrong.

But until such time when the Arabs as a nation and people know what is right and wrong in their politics, we remain of the opinion that the course of history is not going in our favour yet. When we know, our problems will be easier to solve; but until then, every thing goes. Just about every thing.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: People's army role

PRINCE Hassan's attendance of a ceremony for graduating the first batch of recruits of Yarmouk University students that joined the people's army reflects the great attention Jordan gives to the people's army and its role in helping the armed forces to defend the motherland. Prince Hassan conveyed to the graduates greetings from King Hussein and wished for both the people's army and the armed forces for success in their endeavour to provide protection for the nation. The students who joined the people's army constitute a source of pride for Jordan and their Arab Nation, since they prove willing and determined to carry on with their studies while at the same time seem being resolute in their national stand to help the regular armed forces to shoulder their immense responsibility towards the Arab Nation. Universities in the Kingdom offer educational training to students but by providing military training they have displayed a tendency of becoming real fortresses of learning and acquiring skills serving their students and their graduates in their future economic, social, political and also military careers. The Jordanian people are happy to see their young generation being provided with means of dealing with all eventualities in their future life, and to see they naturally give their blessing to such development and to the young generation which will provide backing and support for the armed forces, the shield of this nation.

Al Dustour: Israeli settlers' atrocities

IN their drive to quell anti-Israeli protests by Arab inhabitants and to stifle the spirit of resistance among the indigenous population of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Israeli authorities seem to be more and more dependent upon Jewish settlers who have settled in occupied and confiscated Arab land. In Qalqilya the settlers were used by the authorities to fire on Arab demonstrators, protesting against destruction caused to their property by Israeli troops and Jewish extremists in earlier incidents. As the Arabs escalate their resistance against the Zionists, the Israeli authorities tend to find new methods of dealing with the Arabs, and the latest tactic are represented in the employment of armed Jewish settlers who fire indiscriminately on Arab people and carry out all forms of atrocities and pillaging in Arab towns and villages. Resorting to the Jewish settlers to help deal with the Arabs proves beyond doubt the Israeli authorities' failure to stifle the struggle of the Arab people who strive to regain freedom and legitimate rights in their homeland. But the more ferocious the invaders and the criminals appear, the more determined the Arab people become to maintain the struggle for liberation.

Sawt Al Shaab: An example of cooperation

A conference being held in Kuwait on promoting investments in Jordan is designed as a step towards consolidating integration among Arab states, a concept which Jordan has been advocating for many years. Jordan believes that economic cooperation and coordination among Arab people should never be obstructed by differences in political views or other considerations; and on this basis, all borders should be open for economic cooperation which is an essential element for political unity among Arab countries. Arab countries have over the years striven to achieve integration; and for this purpose, they signed bilateral agreements and took steps to implement joint economic ventures; and all such moves are designed to corroborate the sense of unity among them. Jordan for its part has opened the door wide for all Arabs to embark on meaningful economic and investment cooperation, and for the success of this endeavour, this country has provided guarantees for capital invested in Jordan and incentives for businessmen to implement major projects and so help in the overall development of the Arab Nation. The conference in Kuwait is a manifestation of this policy which has proved successful in the Kingdom that continues to enjoy political and economic cooperation.

U.S.-Israeli affinity is unshakable

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

IT was difficult to think of or remember the Middle East and its hybrid problems while riding the train "Le Canadien" from Montreal in the eastern part of Canada to Edmonton in the west. It was not just the breathtaking snow-covered forests and prairies or the sea-sized frozen lake with expressive names like Slave Lake or Raccoon Lake or even the towns of Canadian wilderness with exotic names like Thunder Bay or Petawawa and every other sort of Wawa town that the "Canadien" was plowing through that made me temporarily at least oblivious of my past and even my roots. The local press I was reading lately as well lent a big hand to my political hibernation or rest for there was hardly a whisper in it about the real issues of the Middle East.

With the exception of occasional outbursts of news about the hostages issue in Lebanon, the mass media in North America has been generally silent on the dangers and threats that loom ahead in the Middle Eastern horizon. But with the surfacing of the Jonathan Pollard spy scandal again in mid-March, the press and other modes of mass media went again into full gear and all of a sudden glowed with excitement and energy about this new scourge in the U.S.-Israeli relations and its long-term corrosive effect on relations between American and Jew. The exact point in time when the mass media awakened to this infamous spy case was the decision of the U.S. district court of Washington to sentence the American Jew Jonathan Pollard to life imprisonment for spying for Israel in a flagrant violation of U.S. critical and vital national security interests, and objectives. But interestingly enough, the journalistic reporting on the fallouts of the spectacular spy case soon assumed a new twist and, instead of dealing with it as an essentially a Middle East crisis touching on the foundation of U.S. strategic alliances with often opposing and conflicting sides and directions in the Middle East and the roots of the U.S. over-confidence and exaggerated and misplaced trust in Israel as an all-time and permanent strategic as well as cultural and political ally, the focus of the mass media soon changed to mere concern with the failings of democracy and democratic institutions in the otherwise only western-oriented democratic state in a so-called sea of darkness and backwardness. The chorus of commentators in the mass media joined forces and opinion to declare that the Jonathan Pollard case is a mere aberration in relations between Jew and American not likely to be

repeated. The failings of the democratic process in Israel was soon looked upon as a scandal, not different from the various scandals which had afflicted the U.S. and other "democracies" in recent times and that such scandals are truly unique features, albeit negative, of functioning democracies. In other words, the concern became with the way Israel had dealt with the spy case and its unwillingness to create an effective machinery to properly investigate the crisis from bottom to top with legally potent powers to issue subpoenas and make binding recommendations. What exacerbated the general climate of the case was the decision of the Israeli government to reward the principals in the spy operation, namely, Rafi Eitan and Aviam Sella, with high, powerful or lucrative posts.

What is really germane for the West is that Israel now has a record of scandals which it had handled in a manner repugnant to Western values and traditions. The Pollard case in effect brought back to the forefront a string of other scandals that are alien to any state which professes to be a Western democracy and which had been dealt with in a manner most repugnant to Western norms. Among such scandals cited in this context were the case of the Shin Beth direct and proximate involvement in the killing of the two Palestinian hijackers of an Israeli bus back in April of 1984 and the dismissal of the Israeli attorney-general for wanting to thoroughly investigate that case; and the 1982 massacres at Sabra and Shatilla Palestinian refugee camps regarding which the Israeli government professed no knowledge and no responsibility in spite of the mounting evidence that its minister of defence at the time and his subordinates were accomplices of the first order in the massacres. In other words, the Pollard spy case is just one of a string of other scandals that had shocked the world at large. And what exacerbated the aftermaths of these scandals was the apparent collusion between the Israeli leaders, whether from the Likud hierarchy or the Labour, on how best to bury the hatchet. The cover ups offered by the opposition, whether from the Likud or Labour depending on who was in actual power at the time, cast heavy dark cloud on the supposition that the collusion between the two principal parties in Israel does not transcend scandalous activities by government officials and does not reach out to the perimeters of other issues including the peace process in the Middle East. Even the Israeli

people are reported to be too upset and frustrated by the behaviours of their political leaders to the extent they now call Yitzhak Shamir, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin the "gang of three" and are now demanding their dismissal and the introduction of new and fresh faces in the political life of Israel.

To be sure, the Pollard spy scandal does not stand alone in the context of the conflict of interest between the U.S. and Israel in spite of their strategic alliance. Israel had demonstrated time and again in the past as in the case of the shelling and strafing of the U.S. ship "Liberty" back in 1967 when scores of U.S. military personnel were killed by Israeli bullets that notwithstanding the alliance between the two countries Israel is prepared to hit below the waist whenever it feels that there is a conflict of interest between its treaty obligations and its national security considerations. The Pollard and Liberty cases and the scores of yet undisclosed cases of conflict of interest between Washington and Tel Aviv demonstrate that Washington's over confidence and trust in Israel is indeed misplaced and needs a thorough review and reconsideration.

But Washington will not act in its best interest and will soon forget the Pollard case just like it forgot and swept under the carpet the case of "Liberty", and its policy makers will make sure once again that the latest episode will not spin out of control. Nothing will be done which could jeopardise the Reagan's administration sending \$3 billion aid package to Israel for next year. The U.S. Congress will show magnanimity, compassion and even understanding for Israel.

As I kept on reading the news reports and the commentaries on the Pollard case during the endless odyssey across Canada, I became convinced that the bondage between Washington and Israel is written in something thicker than blood and come what may, the alliance and affinity between the two countries cannot be broken or threatened for many decades to come.

The reading during the trip in Canada via "Le Canadien" merely bolstered the obvious and did not come as a shock. In fact I was able to sleep many hours across the Canadian prairies and forests. And by the way, Canada is a very beautiful country which many of us should try to see and enjoy.

Israeli stranglehold on Arab settlements

By Robert Little

LONDON — The 682,750

Palestinian refugees living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are bused in makeshift, ramshackle camps. But an OPEC-financed project for the provision of medical equipment and to improve environmental health services for them has been blocked by the Israeli military authorities.

Earlier this year the OPEC Fund approved a grant of \$250,000 for use by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to provide concrete pathways and basic drainage, as well as upgrade some medical equipment in 10 of the camps. UNRWA has been attempting to provide some form of primary health care for the Palestinian refugees in these camps for almost 40 years.

Now representatives of the European Committee for the Defence of Refugees and Immigrants (ECDFI) have reported that the Israeli military commanders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have forbidden any form of constructional improvements. This is done on the grounds, they say, that the present camps, which were built after 1948, are considered by the government to be only "temporary" accom-

modations.

The ECDFI said that UNRWA sought financial assistance from the OPEC Fund to improve the basic environmental services because of persistent spread of chronic illnesses and diseases, which accounted for a mortality rate among children which is eight times the Israeli average.

UNRWA's plans to improve the services included the provision of a clean supply of drinking water, proper sanitary disposal of solid and liquid wastes, drainage of rain water and regular spraying of insecticides and rodenticides.

Nicholas Bell, an ECDFI representative who recently returned to London after working with Palestinians living in the occupied territories and in Israel, has written a highly critical report of his experiences. During his stay in the country he spent some time with colleagues at the annual Nazareth voluntary work camp.

In his report Bell describes the annual Nazareth work camp as "one of the most defiant acts of Arab resistance against attempts by the Jewish state to destroy the identity, culture and economic basis of survival of the 700,000 Palestinians living in Israel."

Nazareth, the ancient capital of Galilee, now has a population of 55,000 and, he says, has become an Arab bastion, the symbol of their determination to maintain their identity and fight for their rights.

This is in spite of the city receiving only about 25 per cent of the per capita budget granted by the state to Jewish towns. Two-thirds of the land which belonged to the municipality in 1948 has now been confiscated and handed over to foreign Jewish settlers to create Nazareth-Ilit (Upper Nazareth), a new Jewish town of 25,000 built on one of the hills overlooking the Arab town.

Bell says that Nazareth-Ilit now possesses all modern services and has received massive development grants. One hundred and sixty factories have been established there, while in the Arab town only small workshops employing less than 10 people have survived the economic stranglehold against Palestinians.

Nazareth-Ilit, he believes, also forms part of a long-term policy by the Israeli government for the "Judaisation" of Galilee. This is based on two main principles: First, they create or reinforce Jewish towns and settlements by giving

large grants (mainly provided by Jews abroad) and importing new settlers and, second, leaving the Arab towns neglected and starved of finance.

This policy can be seen by the way new purely Jewish towns are gradually surrounding major Arab concentrations of population. Afula to the south, Migdal Haemek to the west and Nazareth-Ilit to the east create a vast new urban area with the Arab town as a ghetto in the middle. In addition, military camps have been set up on three hills which dominate the old city of Nazareth.

A visit to present-day Israel, Bell says, brings you into confrontation with a kind of situation which is all but unknown in most other parts of the world. Israel's present need of a cheap labour force is conveniently covered by Palestinians coming from the occupied territories who, in a system very similar to South Africa's black townships, are forbidden to spend the night in Israel, and are therefore forced to migrate every day.

The brutal war of expulsion of 1947-48 has now given way to a more gradual, step-by-step war of

repression, discrimination and

bulimination. When it comes to expulsion or deportation of Palestinians today, individual tragedies are not uncommon.

A 19-year-old Arab woman who was suffering from a heart complaint was deported from the Gaza Strip last month, in spite of a written statement by an Israeli doctor that she was too ill to travel. She has died.

Raja Arbaa had left for Egypt with her husband, Mohammad Arbaa, a Gaza resident, and their two babies, after last-minute attempts to prevent her expulsion failed.

Mrs. Arbaa, a member of a Palestinian family living in Dubai, had come to Gaza and married about two years ago, but was refused permission to live permanently with her husband in the area, on the ground that she was an "illegal immigrant."

In Haifa the old Arab districts, including five historic buildings, are being left to fall into ruin or are being completely demolished. At Acre, however, the magnificent old town is too valuable to destroy and is a tourist attraction. In numerous cases Palestinians

expelled from their old villages in 1948, or nomadic bedouins forced through land expropriation to become settled, built new villages on Arab-owned land. When, in the mid-1960s, official Israeli maps were drawn up, incorporating all the new Jewish settlements, these Arab villages were not included. Today, therefore, their residents are considered to be illegal.

Other former Arab-owned areas have been declared military or security zones in which tens of thousands of olive and fruit trees have been uprooted and burned.

In southern Galilee, about 6,000 Arab families have been served notice by the Israeli authorities that they should demolish their own houses and leave the area. It is estimated that a further 20,000 face the risk of receiving the same orders.

Many Arabs whose villages or smallholdings were destroyed or who were expelled by military decree, found refuge in Nazareth. For the Palestinians living in Jewish-dominated towns such as Haifa and Jaffa, or in villages suffering this permanent oppression, the spirit of old Nazareth has become a symbol of hope — Arab News, Jeddah.

The Gulf states and the Palestinians — a changing relationship?

By Nadim Jaber

THE twin neighbourhoods of

Hawalli and Nagra, ten minutes drive from the centre of Kuwait City, are often referred to as "Sabra and Shatila," derogatively by Kuwaitis, with pride by the Palestinians who inhabit them. They are among the oldest, most densely-populated and run-down of Kuwait's mushrooming suburbs, and they manage to retain a Levantine vibrancy quite distinct from the affluent and well-planned but rather characterless state built suburbs where most Kuwaitis live. A few yards from the PLO office in Hawalli, lie the Jerusalem Pharmacy, Hebron Butchers, "The Return" electrical appliance retailers, and a cassette shop specialising in Palestinian folklore and revolutionary songs. Few flowing Kuwaiti dishdashas are to be seen there, but many of the older women still wear the distinctive local embroidery of their villages in the West Bank.

For several years now, a rumour has been circulating that the government is going to knock down Hawalli and Nagra, because it doesn't want the Palestinians to congregate. Nobody has managed to provide evidence for this, but some of Kuwait's quarter of a million Palestinian residents believe it will happen; most of the remainder think that while it won't, the imputed motivation behind it is very real.

It is ironic that throughout the Gulf, Palestinians nowadays feel less secure than they have since they started migrating en masse to the oil-rich region in the 1950s, to work as bank managers, truck drivers, teachers or clerks. The irony is that though the authorities in several Gulf countries treated the Palestinians as potential subversives throughout the 1970's, and targeted them for periodic collective deportations on political grounds, the advent of the Iranian revolution and the Gulf war has shifted this label firmly onto the Gulf's Shiite

populations; indigenous,

Lebanese, Iraqi or Iranian. For the 600,000-odd Palestinians for whom the Gulf is as near as can be to home, the current sense of insecurity is more economic and psychological than overtly political. Recession has hit the Gulf gradually but undeniably since 1982, as low oil prices coincided with an end to the infrastructure-building boom of the '70s, and the Iraq-Iran war began taking its toll on domestic investment and business confidence. "Nationalisation" of jobs has been accelerated in most Gulf states, and visa and work-permit controls, always notoriously tight, made harsher. As a result something of an exodus, partly voluntary partly forced, has begun among the roughly five million migrants who form 75 per cent of the Gulf region's workforce. The outflow has been estimated at up to 50,000 a month, and it is the 2.5m Arabs rather than the lower-paid politically safer Asians among them who tend to be most affected.

It is debatable whether Gulf-based Palestinians have been targeted more than their fellow Arabs by all this. Certainly since 1982, a number of regional states have operated policies of rejecting new residence-permit applications from Palestinians. While most of the outgoing Palestinians can settle elsewhere and join the ranks of the "returnees" who have become an established phenomenon in Cairo, Amman or Damascus, others find themselves in a predicament. Green Cards, permitting emigration to the U.S., are highly prized. Up to 27,000 Palestinians are said to have left the area last summer alone.

There is no question of a significant reduction of Palestinians in the Gulf in the foreseeable future. Large Palestinian communities remain an important part of the workforce in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE.

While by no means integrated into the insular local societies, Palestinians have tended to settle longer than other nationalities in the host countries, many reaching positions of considerable influence. This presence was an important mobiliser of Gulf public and official opinion in favour of the Palestinians in the past. Fateh itself was conceived by migrant Gulf Palestinians, and the governments of the region were eager to be seen as pro-Palestinian. But many feel that things are beginning to change, that the Gulf recession is creating resentment of Palestinian influence, and that for a variety of reasons the position of Palestinians in the Gulf, both physical and political, is on the wane. This may say more about the current mood of despair among Palestinians than about the policies of Gulf governments, but like the rumours about Hawalli and Nagra, it is the credibility, rather than the accuracy, of the story which seems to matter.

Many Palestinians detect changes, albeit subtle and tentative, in Gulf perceptions of the urgency of their cause, primarily resulting from the outbreak of the Iranian revolution in 1979 and the subsequent war with Iraq: Two developments which for Gulf governments are immeasurably more immediate and threatening than the still unresolved plight of the Palestinians. For some Gulf decision-makers, the verbal and financial support their countries have provided for the Palestinian cause over the years has always been — at least in part — "protection money," designed to win domestic and pan-Arab legitimacy, ensure the goodwill of the PLO leadership, and revolutionary nationalism of the Palestinians on their own populations, especially the emergent intelligentsia. With religion replacing nationalism as the main language of domestic discontent in the '80s, this factor has diminished. Inter-Palestinian developments since

1982 have not helped; in the minds of many ordinary Gulfites, the heroic image of the Palestinians in the '70s has been replaced by one of factional bickering and political impotence, more akin to an Arab regime than an enlightened revolution.

This perceived reduction in the importance of Palestine to the Gulf is difficult to document, the right things are still being said by Gulf delegates at the U.N. But Gulf-based Palestinians point to a lower priority given to Palestinian issues in the officially-regulated media (a number of Palestinian journalists working for Kuwait papers were recently expelled from the country), and sense a reduction in diplomatic activity on their behalf by the Gulf countries. PLO officials complain, privately, that some Gulf states are not paying up their financial commitment to the organisation. Even essentially trivial changes are given a symbolic importance, such as the reduced protocol accorded PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat during his visits to some countries in the region.

The explanations put forward are numerous. The economic weight of the Gulf countries during the oil boom years was at least one reason why the question of Palestinian rights found its way on to the West's political agenda. With the once hoped-for use or threat of the "oil weapon" on behalf of the Palestinians now firmly consigned to the realms of mythology, few illusions remain about the viability of wresting U.S.-Israeli concessions via Gulf leverage.

Many in the Palestinian leadership believe that as long as the Iraq-Iran war persists, the growing sense of Gulf insecurity will rebound on them. They fear it will provide the U.S. with an opportunity to squeeze the Gulf States into reducing their backing for the Palestinians and pressing the PLO into making unprecipitated concessions. This argument has been put forward to

explain the increased emphasis which Arafat places on the Gulf war in his public proclamations, and his drift towards almost total identification with the Iraqi position. According to this view, the 1982 invasion of Lebanon was made possible because the Gulf war diverted Arab attention, and there are very real fears that continuing turmoil in the Gulf will play a similar role in the current campaign to eliminate the PLO.

Perhaps more immediate is the effect of the war on the GCC states' attitude towards the PLO's two main current Arab adversaries, the governments of Syria and Jordan. Why were the Gulf states so slow to act on lifting the siege of the Beirut camps, if not for their reluctance to upset Syria, who as Iran's main Arab ally, is potentially a key player in any settlement of the Iraq-Iran war?

In a similar vein can be seen the GCC countries' recent flirtations with an Egypt still committed to Camp David, but whose role in supporting the Iraqi armed forces is of growing importance. A key element lately of joint Egyptian-Gulf interests — and one surpassing any common action on the Palestinian front — has been a determination to suppress radical religious currents at home, partly by sponsoring conservative fundamentalists. Likewise, the policy of Saudi Arabia and its partners towards Lebanon can be interpreted as focussing not on the plight of the Palestinians there, but on seeking to neutralise the radical factions within the Shi'ite community, whose counterparts in the Gulf have over the past few years sought to undermine the governments of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar. With the Iraq-Iran war raging literally within earshot, the Gulf states' traditional reluctance to engage in inter-Arab disputes has been heightened, at a time when the polarisation of other Arab regimes over the Palestinian question is

particularly sensitive and acute.

Palestinian officials share with the Gulf's own pan-Arabists a fear that the governments of the region are reverting to regionalism, a process symbolised by the formation in 1981 of the Gulf Cooperation Council, whose effect will be gradually to gradually disengage Palestine from the region's concerns, they say. It may be premature for Palestinians to be voicing such suspicions at this time. With their own house in such disorder and their international efficacy at its lowest point for 15 years, the Palestinians can hardly blame the indifference of Arab regimes alone. The PLO is, after all, dithering about its own policy, and is not in a position to expect enthusiastic support from others.

Indeed some Palestinians see the emergent distancing of Palestine from the Gulf as a double-edged sword. The same financial backing that boosted PLO leverage in its heyday is blamed for creating corruption and corner-cutting within the organisation and compromising its political independence. Past diplomatic support from the Gulf, while valuable, also imposed on the PLO the qualifying need to secure an Arab consensus for its policy platforms. The end of the oil-boom may increase hardship in the Israeli-occupied territories because of lower remittances, but it also appears to have helped stem the drain of Palestinians from the West Bank (from 16,000 in 1981 to 3,000 in 1983, according to Israeli figures) on which Israeli policy seems to count. In many respects, the argument goes, the Palestinians' multi-faceted relationship with the oil states shackled them more than it projected them. It is ultimately the ability of the Palestinians themselves to cope with their current predicaments which will determine how the Gulf will reflect on their destiny — Middle East International, London.

سكنا من الجول

New diagnostic machine sees trouble, saves lives

National Geographic

WASHINGTON — By the time he was almost 5, Nathan Tower was suffering from severe earaches and headaches. Some nights he was in constant pain, and aspirin brought no relief.

Trying to find the cause of his pain, Nathan's frantic mother eventually consulted 11 different doctors. Some of them viewed her as psychotic. When Nathan was 10, his mother took him to the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Doctors saw evidence of a tumour on the brain and called it inoperable.

In desperation, the Towers went to Phoenix's Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Centre. Nathan was scheduled for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan, a technology that had recently arrived at the hospital.

Remarkably clear image

The powerful magnetic field aligned the hydrogen nuclei in Nathan's brain, and a picture was transmitted to a screen. There emerged a remarkably clear image of the tumour at the base of the brain. The next day Dr. Harold L. Rekate, chief of pediatric neurosurgery, removed a tumour of the medulla in a delicate operation lasting more than eight hours.

"The MRI erased the bones around the spinal cord and showed the tumour clearly," said Dr. Rekate. "Before MRI almost no one would have attempted it. Ten years ago this kid would have died."

Now six, Nathan Tower is neurologically normal today, no longer with a weak arm and leg. His overjoyed father plans to raise money to set up an MRI centre in British Columbia.

Magnetic resonance imaging is

one of the most dramatic of a new breed of imaging devices that has brought more progress to diagnostic medicine in the past 15 years than in the entire previous history of medicine, Howard Sochurek writes in the January National Geographic.

MRI depicts soft tissue in high contrast, revealing the body's inner workings as if the exterior had been peeled away. Using no X-rays but instead a combination of radio waves and a strong magnetic field, MRI sees through bones and teeth.

The technology focuses on the behaviour of hydrogen atoms in water molecules, allowing it to do certain things better than computed tomography (CT) scanners, such as distinguishing between the brain's white matter and water-rich gray matter.

High-contrast images

Because of MRI's ability to depict soft tissues in high contrast, it has proved effective in examining the spinal cord. Before MRI, doctors had to inject the spinal cord with an X-ray contrast agent in a potentially risky, painful procedure. MRI also has been used to spot the tiny lesions of multiple sclerosis on brain and spinal tissue.

MRI can spot trouble before it's felt. A young volunteer who was scanned was amazed to find he had a huge brain tumour. His only symptom had been occasional headaches. Sochurek learned that it is not uncommon for people to live with brain tumours with little or no effect.

The potential of magnetic resonance imaging has become generally recognised only since 1980. Today some 400 machines operate in the United States, more than in any other country.

MRI is expensive. The equipment costs about \$2 million, and it must be in a room completely insulated from external radio frequencies, adding another \$750,000 to the cost. Each scan

costs about \$800.

Some of the pioneering work was done at University Hospital in Nottingham, England. "We had a tiny magnet," recalls Professor Brian S. Worthington about MRI's early days in 1974. "The first thing we looked at was an onion, and we saw its inner rings. We had great concern about what the magnet might do to human beings. I remember questioning whether too strong a field might even have an effect on the human memory."

In 1977 the researchers tried one of the first MRI scans of living human tissue — a wrist. Two years later a bold scientist volunteer thrust his head into the magnetic field for a brain scan. Today some patients whose bodies contain metal, such as pacemakers, are barred from having MRI scans.

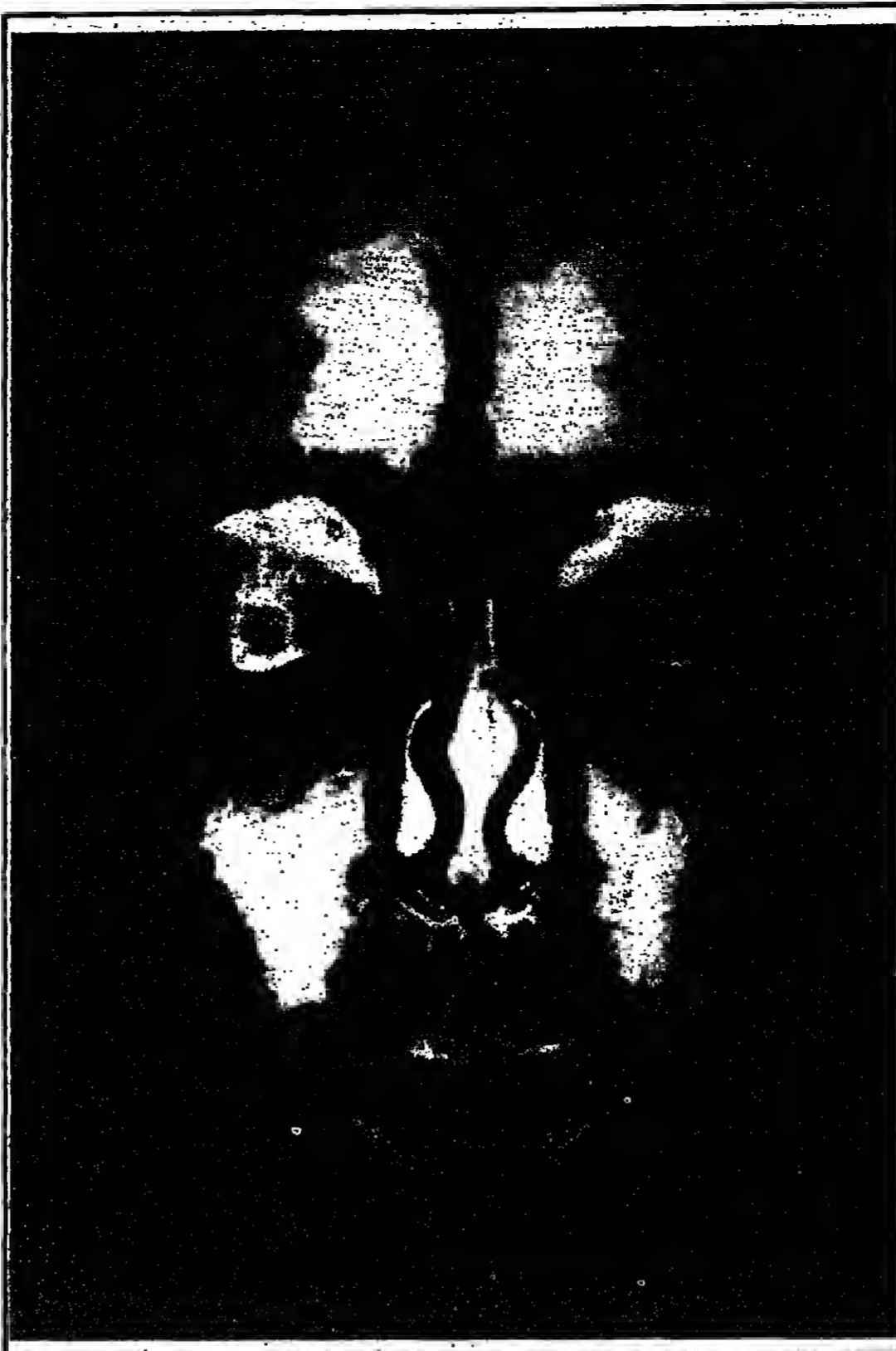
Future holds promise

Though hydrogen is the basis of today's MRI scanning, future scanners may use other elements. By analysing the amount of phosphorus in the heart, for example, physicians could determine at an early stage whether the muscle tissue was being starved of nourishment by a clogged artery. Future research also may perfect methods of tagging cloned antibodies to search out cancerous tumours.

Getting an MRI scan, Sochurek writes, may become as common as getting an X-ray.

MRI was developed just in time for Joe Silvers, who works in the garage of the Tulsa, Oklahoma police department. Without warning one Sunday afternoon, Silvers fell into a convulsion at his parent's home. A CT scan of his brain showed what looked like a stroke, a strange finding in a healthy young man with no other neurological problems.

The answer came in an MRI scan that showed a tumour surrounded by fluid-filled ventricles. The tumour was removed, and Silvers has had no more trouble.



Ghostly in the dark, a normal face seems otherworldly when viewed by a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner. Some parts — such as the forehead and nose — appear brighter because of their high water density. MRI focuses on hydrogen atoms in molecules and can see through bones.

Supernova helping solve key question about universe

By Jim Fuller

WASHINGTON — The detection of tiny subatomic particles, spewed from the depths of a giant exploding star in a nearby galaxy is helping scientists forecast the fate of our universe, according to U.S. researchers.

The researchers report that the exploding star, called a supernova, is providing new data that will help solve one of science's great mysteries — whether the universe will one day stop its expansion and collapse upon itself or whether the stars will continue to race away from each other for eternity.

The recently-discovered supernova, called Sheltan-1987A, is occurring in the Greater Magellanic Cloud, a galaxy close to our own Milky Way galaxy. Not since 1604, just before Galileo invented the reflecting telescope, has a supernova occurred so close to the Earth. The gigantic explosion actually took place 170,000 years ago, before Neanderthal man walked the planet, but its light is only now reaching the Earth.

A supernova is the explosion of a massive star perhaps 20 times larger than the sun. It occurs at the end of the star's lifetime when runaway nuclear reactions cause the star to explode and brighten dramatically. While a handful of supernovas are observed in distant galaxies each year, Sheltan-1987A is unique because it was discovered well before reaching its maximum brightness.

The new supernova was first spotted on February 24 by a Canadian scientist at Las Campanas Observatory in Chile. Laurence Peterson, assistant director of science at the astrophysics division of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), said the supernova is still brightening, giving astronomers the first opportunity ever to study the process with powerful modern telescopes. It is bright enough to be seen with the naked eye.

The stellar explosion showered Earth with a wave of subatomic particles known as neutrinos, the first detected from beyond the solar system. The neutrino wave was reported by scientists using special detectors located in subterranean mines in the United States, Europe, Japan and the Soviet Union.

Neutrinos bombard the Earth by the thousands of millions every day, so tiny they pass right through the planet, people and other matter unseen, slipping between the particles that make up atoms. But these neutrinos are created by the sun and other sources, and they come in a steady stream rather than the bursts created by the supernova.

Only one per cent of the exploding star's energy is ejected as light and expanding debris, while 99 per cent is released as neutrinos.

Many scientists believe that neutrinos are responsible for the so-called "missing mass" needed to provide the gravitational pull to halt the expansion of the universe, forcing it eventually to collapse upon itself, like a stretched rubber band pulling slowly back into place.

"But it has now been shown experimentally, based on the recent observations of the neutrinos from the supernova, that there is such a small amount of material or mass associated with the neutrinos that they can't account for the missing mass in the universe," Peterson said. "And that's an important event."

Physicist Sidney Kahana of Brookhaven National Laboratory, who was involved in the U.S. experiment to detect the supernova neutrinos, said scientists were able to put an upper limit on the mass of the neutrinos because of the short period of time that elapsed between the arrival of the first neutrinos from the supernova explosion and the last.

Because the group of neutrinos arrived in such a short period of time, six seconds or so, it seems there was little spread in velocities, which is what you would expect for a small mass," he said.

Scientists believe that the Big Bang that began the universe threw the matter of the universe outward, and that it is still expanding today. If there is enough mass in the universe, the gravity of all the stars, planets and interstellar dust would overcome the force of the Big Bang and the universe would contract again. Right now, however, 90 per cent of the universe's mass remains unaccounted for, even after planets, stars, galaxies and other space gasses and debris are added up.

The detection of the neutrinos has verified other important theories about supernovas. Scientists believed, for example, that a supernova is produced by the sudden gravitational collapse of the central part of a massive star. The collapse produces a violent nuclear burn and a powerful explosion that blows off the star's outer layers to form an expanding gas shell. It is at the moment when the star begins to explode from its core outward that the elusive neutrinos are generated.

"The neutrinos are the particles that escaped during the first few seconds when the whole inside part of the star was undergoing a total nuclear reaction," Peterson said. "So detecting the neutrinos verifies that the nuclear

process, which had been suspected as being responsible for supernovas, does indeed take place."

According to Peterson, the supernova neutrinos also support the theory that neutrinos are a by-product of the process that creates heavy elements during a supernova explosion. Scientists believe supernovas produce most of the heavy elements needed to build the universe, including the carbon atoms fundamental to life.

The supernova explosion propels those elements outward to form vast clouds of gas and dust that sometimes foster the birth of new stars and planets.

"The supernova is sort of like a catastrophic furnace in which all the heavier elements are cooked through a process called nuclear synthesis," Peterson said.

"These heavy elements get scattered out into the interstellar medium. In fact, as we watch this supernova on Earth, our bodies are probably formed of atoms that were originally synthesised in a supernova explosion."

— U.S. Information Agency.

Hope for endangered black rhinos comes from North Yemen

By Michelle Faul
The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — The fight to save Africa's dwindling population of black rhinos got a boost this year when North Yemen began considering stringent new laws to curb the smuggling of rhino horns used to make traditional daggers.

"I'm more optimistic now than in nearly 10 years of work to save the rhino," said Esmond Bradley Martin, an American-born conservationist living in Nairobi.

Yemeni government interest in preserving the rhinos combined with high prices for the coveted horn is working to bring down demand, according to Bradley Martin and U.S. diplomats in San'a, North Yemen's capital.

In 1970, when Africa had 65,000 black rhinos roaming wild, a kilogramme of rhino horn fetched the equivalent of \$30 in the market at San'a. Today, with only 4,500 black rhinos escaping the slaughter, the same kilogramme costs \$900.

Last year, North Yemen — which imports almost half the rhino horn on the world market — brought in 500 kilogrammes, down from 1,500 kilogrammes a

year between 1980 and 1984, according to Bradley Martin.

He travelled to North Yemen twice in the past four months under the auspices of the World Wildlife Fund to discuss rhinos with Abdul Karim Al Iryani, deputy premier and foreign affairs minister. American ambassador William Rugh and other U.S. diplomats also attended the meetings.

As a result of the discussions, sources in San'a said, North Yemen banned exports of rhino horn shavings. They were sold at \$227-253 a kilogramme to South Koreans, who make a tonic with it.

Rhino horn imports were banned in 1984, but demand for the horn feeds a network of smugglers.

North Yemenis carve the horn into ornamental handles for ceremonial daggers called *djambis*, sold for as much as \$845.

The Yemeni government warned the main trader in San'a, who deals in two-thirds of the rhino horn imports, to stop handling new supplies, Bradley Martin said.

Conservationists also are winning a battle to encourage craftsmen to use substitutes like water

buffalo horn, he said.

"This artistic, cultural tradition should not be denigrated. And we don't want to see craftsmen lose jobs, but rather use other materials," Bradley Martin said.

Iryani is hoping to interest the grand mufti, the country's Islamic leader, in issuing an edict that would help stop use of the rhino horn, said U.S. diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Iryani has drafted a law — still under study — making use of the horn illegal.

The grand mufti will determine if Islamic Law (Sharia) support the ban.

Iryani has also proposed linking the licenses of dagger-carvers to banning the use of rhino horn, according to the diplomats.

Under the plan, the dagger-carvers would not be able to operate in the country's bazaars if they did not sign an affidavit that they would not work with rhino horn.

Yemeni officials also met with their counterparts from the United Arab Emirates, a major link in trade of rhino horn.

The horn is spirited from southern and eastern African nations to the central African state of Burundi.

Randa

2nd Circle waterfalls

I have some news! I feel I have to share with you. Do you know why there is a pyramid on Jabal Amman's Second Circle? It is a waterfall. Yes, it will be a waterfall instead of a common fountain. This "art piece" has been donated by the Amman Chamber of Industry which financed the design and the cost of the two waterfalls.

So water will be falling soon on the Second Circle, if engineers overcome the technical problems they are facing even though the monument was designed to serve as a waterfall. Sound effects of waterfalls will be provided, high enough not to be drowned out by the noise of the cars.

Amazing, isn't it? I am sure that the people who live nearby that area had no idea that one day they would have the "Niagara Falls" just under their windows. So, since I heard of this exciting news, I keep on imagining the future situation on the Second Circle. Waterfalls, with the rumbling noise effect of cars stuck in a traffic jam as is common during hot days, throwing their clothes on the benches, and dipping in the pool, or a swim. Roundabout drivers with open windows will be able to enjoy the refreshing effect of water as they will be splashed every time somebody dips into the pool. And not to forget the birds who will choose to have their lunch break near the falls, on the benches, staring at the beautiful site of the traffic jams.

You know, I think we are incredible people around here. We have the ability to provide cascades in the middle of a highway, not in parks, or between the trees, the flowers and the birds. That would be too common. So, from now on, nobody can convince me that we can't have that lake in Abdoun after all.

labib's corner

Rights bill grants Swedish homosexuals common-law marriage status

By Artur Max
The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — If Sweden's government has its way, homosexual couples soon will have the same rights as men and women married under common law.

The proposed law, which follows a six-year study of homosexuals and their lifestyle by a government-appointed commission, is now before the Riksdag, Sweden's parliament. It would be the first gay rights law in Sweden.

The law would allow homosexuals to sign housing leases as a couple, would regulate the division of property in the break-up of a relationship and would grant partners the right to inherit property in the event of a will.

Spokesman for Sweden's 6,000-member Gay and Lesbian Rights Union said the measure is too little and too late. Nevertheless, the bill represents another step in the fight for gay rights in Sweden.

The 349-member Riksdag is due to vote on the bill late next month. Sex legislators have raised objections to it on religious grounds, but the bill is widely expected to pass.

As a whole, the proposal is fair, but it is very weak protection for homosexuals," said Heinz Spira, a councillor for Gay Rights Union.

The bill is used as its model a governing heterosexual marriage laws, a widespread practice in Sweden. It also says homosexuals will be protected by all laws presently valid for citizens.

Spira said his organisation had sought legal sanction for civil marriages, and for the adoption of children as a category of people eligible for political asylum if they are persecuted in their home countries.

Spira said the government's move more boldly on the issue was reflected in the fact it took to draft the legislation after the commission

completed its work. But the sponsors called it an achievement. "We wanted to provide homosexuals with the possibility of living together in about the same way as married heterosexuals," said Curt Danielsson, spokesman of the social affairs ministry.

He said the drafters of the bill rejected the demand for asylum because existing statutes offering sanctuary on humanitarian grounds could be applied to homosexuals.

Danielsson said it was hoped the law would encourage homosexuals to live together and discourage promiscuity as one way to combat the spread of AIDS, often transmitted through homosexual contact.

Despite his criticisms, Spira said the bill still compared well with the law in other countries. Only Holland and possibly Denmark had more comprehensive legislation, he said in an interview.

The commission urged the national radio to broadcast more programmes "with a homosexual content," and schools to discuss the subject in the classroom.

Spira said the Gay Rights Union "has worked for 35 years to change the attitude of the people and the authorities. ... And they have changed visibly in the last 15 to 20 years."

But the commission found a conservative streak in attitudes toward homosexuals and widespread prejudice.

"The silence surrounding homosexuals is virtually total," the commission reported in 1984. "Homosexuality is not a natural part of society, it is not present as a social and cultural institution."

Swedish newspapers have reported that Christian publications refused to print a paid advertisement offering counselling for gays worried about AIDS.

The government commission found that the gays' situation "is far from satisfactory," and that cohabitation "is fraught with complications."

The commission's report said about half the Swedes it surveyed found homosexuality "repulsive," and that one in five people would not want to count a homosexual among his friends.

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Ali Rawashdeh.

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Wilander comes from behind to win Monte Carlo Open

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP) — Mats Wilander of Sweden came from a set down Sunday to beat Jimmy Arias of the United States, 4-6, 7-5, 6-1, 6-3 in the final of the \$513,000 Monte Carlo Open.

Wilander wins \$74,700 in taking his second tournament this year. He previously won at Brussels after taking time off after last September's U.S. Open.

Arias collects \$37,350 for making his first final since 1985. Once ranked fifth in the world, he has slipped to now no. 53 but beat Boris Becker earlier in the tournament.

Arias was on a roll, blasting

forehand winners in the first set. He broke Wilander in the first game of the match.

The American held up through the rest of the first set as he approached the net strategically.

However, in the second set Arias' forehand suddenly went erratic. Wilander broke him for the first time in the second game as Arias netted an easy smash.

Arias' game, which was so solid

earlier, deserted him as shots that had found the corners now landed long.

Wilander started playing steadier and broke Arias in the ninth game to take the second set 7-5.

The Swede was playing better as Arias was becoming irritated with his play. Wilander had no trouble in the third set, rolling to a 6-1 victory.

Wilander jumped to a 3-0 lead in the final set on his way to the 4-3 victory, taking his second Monte Carlo title. He was champion in 1983 and was runner-up in 1984 and 1985.

Agreement on additional tickets for Calgary Olympics reached

CALGARY, Canada (AP) — Travel agents in Canada and abroad will get up to 200,000 tickets to the 1988 Winter Olympic Games, including almost 50,000 tickets to so-called prime events.

The Olympic Organising Committee agreed to offer the international agents one ticket to the top events for each three or four they take for less-popular events.

The decision is aimed at assuaging the travel agents, some of whom had complained they couldn't get good tickets to the Games, scheduled in Calgary next February.

"I certainly think we can meet the international expectations," ticketing manager Jim Hubert said.

Most of the top events — such as the opening and closing ceremonies, medal-round hockey games and figure-skating competitions — were sold out shortly after tickets went on sale Sept. 30.

Almost half of the 1.9 million tickets for the Games are still available. But most are for preliminary hockey games that don't yet have teams determined, as well as events not popular in Canada, such as the biathlon and Nordic combined.

Those events are in demand among Euro peans, but Olympic organisers felt some tickets to the

prime events also had to be offered to international agents as an inducement.

They had originally planned to fill the travel agents' orders after the first-day orders from the public were processed. But an unexpected deluge of 53,000 first-day orders, combined with heavy demand from privileged insiders, left virtually no tickets to the top events.

Almost 200,000 new tickets were created through expansion of some venues, including the Olympic Saddledome, site of hockey and figure-skating. In addition, organisers persuaded insiders to cut back their orders and reallocated some other tickets.

Hobart said travel agents in Canada and the United States will receive 29,000 prime tickets, of which about 25,000 became available because of the venue expansions and other reallocations.

The North American agents will also receive 89,000 tickets to lesser events.

Agents in the rest of the world, mostly Europe, will get 20,000 prime tickets, 13,000 of which are new, and 62,000 other tickets.

Remaining tickets to the top events will be sold to members of the public who are on waiting lists because their orders could not be completely filled.

Maradona guides Napoli to victory

ROME (AP) — Diego Maradona powered in a decisive goal as title favourite Napoli defeated Milan 2-1 in Naples Sunday, but major rival Internazionale edged Fiorentina 1-0 at home to stay in the hunt for the Italian League Soccer Championship.

The victories give Napoli 39 points and Inter 37 with three rounds left in the 30-match championship. Napoli must win at least five points from its last three games to be sure of winning its first ever title.

Before a capacity 85,000 crowd, Napoli took the lead in the 38th minute after striker Bruno Giordano tore through the Milan defence with a zigzagging run and fired off a low shot. Milan's goalie Giovanni Galli got his hand to the ball, but centre forward Andrea Carnevale headed the rebound into an empty net.

Barely five minutes later Maradona notched Napoli's second goal and his tenth this season.

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Performances 7:30, 9:00, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 622198
RAGHADAN
STRIKE COMMANDO
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McRae wins 100-metre dash at Penn Relays

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Lee McRae, a speedster on the U.S. indoor athletics circuit, blazed out of the starting blocks and won the 100-metre dash in a hand-timed 10.1 seconds at the Penn Relays athletic meeting.

McRae, who holds the world indoor best in the 55-metre dash, defeated fellow-American Dennis Mitchell by three metres before a crowd of 31,418.

Another American, Roddie Haley, ran the final 400 metres in 45.1 seconds as the University of Arkansas captured the featured 1,600-metre relay Saturday in three minutes, 4.3 seconds.

Arkansas also won the 6,000-metre relay, clocking 15:07.3 as Britain's Gary Taylor moved to the lead with about 180 metres to go and won by 10 metres. It was the fastest time in the world this year in the event in which members of four-person teams each carry a baton 1,500 metres.

Taylor was timed in 3:45.8 for his 1,500-metre anchor as he ran away from Ireland's Gerry O'Reilly, the anchor leg for Villanova University, which finished second in 15:08.5.

Jamaica's Andrew Parker, a

student at Arizona State University, easily captured the men's 110-metre hurdles with a time of 13.52 seconds.

In an unimpressive 4:06.83, Kenya's Charles Cheruiyot took the men's mile, which was scheduled as part of an experiment to hold more Grand Prix international athletics series in the United States.

The effort, however, attracted only a sprinkling of U.S. talent and international runners who either live or attend college in the United States.

The men's long jump, another of the four Grand Prix events on the three-day programme, was also unimpressive. Gordon Laine, who was ranked seventh among American long jumpers last year, won with a jump of 7.90 metres.

The third Grand Prix event of the day — the women's 3,000-metre run — was won in 9:02.2 by Mary Kniskern, the top-ranked American in the event last year.

Louise Ritter took the meeting's other Grand Prix event, the women's high jump, Friday by clearing 1.93 metres.

American NBA playoffs

Seattle, LA, Utah win

DALLAS (AP) — Seattle's Dale Ellis came back to haunt his former team Saturday night.

Ellis, traded by the Dallas Mavericks to the SuperSonics during the off-season, hit two free throws with two seconds left to give the Sonics a 112-101 victory and even their NBA Western Conference first-round playoff series at one win each.

The third game of the best-of-five series will be played in Seattle on Tuesday night.

In Inglewood, California, Kareem Abdul Jabbar scored all 28 of his points in the first three periods as the Los Angeles Lakers whipped the Denver Nuggets 139-127 to take a 2-0 lead in a

first-round NBA Western Conference playoff series.

Magic Johnson and James Worthy had 21 and 19 points, respectively, for the Lakers, who had seven players in double figures. Johnson also had a game-high 15 assists.

Game 3 in the best-of-five series is Wednesday night in Denver.

In Salt Lake City, Darrell Griffith's layup put Utah ahead to stay with 37 seconds to play, as the Jazz took a 2-0 lead in their NBA first-round playoff series with a 103-100 victory over Golden State.

The series moves to Oakland, California, for game 3 on Wednesday.

Gardner takes Spanish Grand Prix motorcycling

JEREZ, Spain (R) — Australian Wayne Gardner, riding a Honda, won the Spanish 500CC Motorcycling Grand Prix in thrilling style Sunday to establish himself as the early leader in the World Championship standings.

Gardner, second on the grid behind world champion Eddie Lawson on Yamaha, grabbed an early advantage and withstood a tough three-lap challenge from the American before streaking clear to win by 23.55 seconds.

Gardner, who was second to American Randy Mamola in the season-opening race of the season in Suzuka, Japan, last month, finished the race in 56 minutes 02.07 seconds.

He thus won 15 points to add to the 12 he received in Japan and is

clear leader in the championship standings after the first two Grands Prix.

After finishing second in last year's championship Gardner is serving early notice of his title ambitions.

Britons Ron Haslam and Niall Mackenzie, both riding Hondas, were third and fourth, Mamola came in sixth.

Kristiansen, McLeod win 10,000-metre Norwegian race

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Norway's Ingrid Kristiansen and Britain's Mike McLeod won the women's and men's classes of the 10,000-metre (11,000-yard "Sentrumsloepet") on Sunday.

Kristiansen, in her final warm-up event for the May 10 London Marathon, outclassed last year's Portuguese winner Aurora Cunha by 1.25 minutes to finish in 31 minutes 51.2 seconds.

Cunha's time was runner-up was 33:16.2 and Jill Clarke of England placed third in 33:17.6.

Colombian Bassa retains WBA title

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Fidel Bassa of Colombia retained the WBA flyweight championship with a 13th-round knockout of British challenger Dave McAuley.

A final right cross from the 24-year-old titleholder knocked the last ounce of resistance out of the Northern Irishman.

He sank to his knees beside the ropes, then slowly toppled over onto his back after 1:45 of the round. Simultaneously, referee Nate Morgan stopped the contest and McAuley's cornermen threw in the towel.

Officials later said that the result was a knockout.

Raising his record to 18-0, Bassa showed plenty to answer those who wondered if his victory over longtime champion Hilario Zapata last February was a fluke.

And McAuley, taking his first loss after 11 victories and two draws, showed he had the stuff to stay in the ring with the best in the weight class.

The challenger took a horrible

beating, though.

McAuley was knocked down in the first round by a right hook, took an eight count, and might have been finished there.

By the time he reached his corner after the opening three minutes, McAuley's right eye also was cut and, at the finish, as he lay dazed and bleeding on the canvas at the end, blood was flowing from his mouth and nose, and cuts above and below both eyes.

Bassa came into the fight two pounds (.91 kilograms), lighter than McAuley, at 109½ pounds (49.8 kg), and some thought he might be weak after losing about five pounds (2.3 kg) in just a few days.

But Bassa had strength, and his legs were still moving well at the end.

McAuley showed strength, too.

Up until the 13th, McAuley just wouldn't give in, no matter how hard and often Bassa, making his first defence of the title he

won from Zapata, hit him.

McAuley also left his mark on Bassa.

In the ninth round, with blood streaming into both eyes, McAuley dropped Bassa with a left hook to the chin for eight count.

Bassa got up shakily, and was promptly knocked back down by another McAuley left hook.

It took tenacity and bravery on Bassa's part to survive the remainder of the round.

But he came back strongly in the 10th, regaining the edge and progressively punished McAuley until the final punch in the 13th.

The first-round dominance of Bassa continued through the opening portion of the bout and it looked certain that the first flyweight world championship fight in King's Hall in 40 years would not go halfway toward the scheduled 15 rounds.

Bassa looked so strong, determined and lethal with his punching, until that shocking knockdown in the ninth.

Navratilova, Evert to meet in Houston tennis final

HOUSTON (AP) — Top-seeded Martina Navratilova rallied in the second set to beat fourth-seeded Zina Garrison 6-1, 7-6 (7-3) in the \$150,000 Houston Women's Tennis tournament.

Combined with the 6-3, 7-5 upset by third-seeded Chris Evert over second-seeded Hana Mandlikova, Navratilova's win sets up the 72nd career meeting between Evert and Navratilova in the championship match at Lakeside Racquet and Athletic Club.

Navratilova, the world's top-ranked player, broke Garrison's serve three times Saturday winning the first set. But Navratilova struggled in the second set, when she committed several unforced errors.

Garrison broke Navratilova's serve to take a 4-3 lead, then held serve, but was unable to close out the set.

At 5-4, serving for the second set, Garrison double-faulted and

hit only one first serve in, allowing Navratilova to break and tie the set 5-5.

Garrison double-faulted on the final point of the match.

Despite not playing her best tennis, Evert won a poorly-served match in which there were 15 service breaks in 21 games.

There were various distractions throughout the match including several botched line calls. After game five of the second set — with Evert leading 4-1 — the umpire handed Mandlikova a code violation for using profanity.

Mandlikova transferred her anger into action, winning 12 of the next 14 points, tying the set 4-4.

The world's No. 3-ranked player fought off three match points in game 10, and went on to break Evert's serve, tying the set 5-5.

However, Evert broke Mandlikova to lead 6-5 and served her way into the final.

American jockey Shoemaker seeks record-tying 5th Kentucky Derby win

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP) — Bill Shoemaker seems to be as much a part of the Kentucky Derby as the blanket of roses that is draped over the winner of America's most prestigious horse race.

The Derby, known as "the Run for the Roses," dates back to 1775. It annually becomes the focus of a week of social events swirling around Churchill Downs Race Track in the heart of Kentucky's famous horse-breeding country.

Next Saturday, May 2, Shoemaker will ride in his 25th Derby, in search of a second straight victory and record-tying fifth for a jockey.

The 55-year-old jockey's mount will be Temperate Sil, who is trained by 74-year-old Charlie Whittingham. Last year, these two teamed to win the Derby with Ferdinand.

The record of five winning rides was set by Eddie Arcaro on Lawrin in 1938, Whirlaway in 1941, Hoop Jr. in 1945, Citation in 1948 and Hill Gail in 1952. It was equaled by Bill Hartack on Iron Liege (1957), Venetian Way (1960), Decidedly (1962), Northern Dancer (1964) and Majestic Prince (1969).

Shoemaker's other derby winners were Swaps (1955), Tony Lee (1959) and Lucky Debonair (1965). His victory on Ferdinand made him the oldest Derby-winning jockey, and he broke Arcaro's record for Derby mounts, when he rode in his 22nd Derby in 1982.

Perhaps the most famous of Shoemaker's Derby rides was a loser — his 1957 trip on Gallant Fox. The horse finished second by a nose to Iron Liege.

Temperate Sil will go into the 1¼ mile (2 kilometre) Derby off an impressive 5½ length victory in the 1¼ mile (1.8 kilometre) Santa Anita Derby on April 4, and Roan Colt is a solid contender.

The horse to beat in what shapes up as a 15 to 18-horse field is Demons Begone. In three starts this year, he won the South-west, Rebel and 1¼ mile (1.8 kilometre) Arkansas Derby on April 18, all at Oaklawn Park.

Trainer D. Wayne Lukas will try to beat him with the entry of Talinum, War and Capote.

Talinum won the 1¼-mile Flamingo on Feb. 28 at Hialeah and was third in the 1¼-mile (1.8 kilometre) Florida Derby on April 4 at Gulfstream Park. War won the 1¼-mile (1.8 kilometre) "Bite Grass" Stakes Thursday when another Derby probable, Alysheba, was disqualified. Capote, the 1986 2-year-old champion, has been fourth in both starts this year — the Gotham and the 1¼-mile (1.8 kilometre) Wood Memorial on April 18 at Aqueduct.

Lukas, whose stable won a total of 134 stakes in 1985-86, still is looking for his first Derby victory after having saddled nine starters in the last six runnings. His best showing was a third with Partez in 1981.

While Lukas is making a seventh straight trip to the Derby, 60-year-old Scotty Schulhofer is making his first as trainer of Cryptoclearance, runner-up in the Flamingo and winner of the Florida Derby.

"I wouldn't swap him for any 3-year-old in the country," Schulhofer said after the Florida Derby. "I've never even been to Louisville or Churchill Downs, but I'm looking forward to it now."

Whittingham's victory last year came in his third try and his first Derby since 1960.

سكينة في الجوار

Colombo renews air attack on Tamil rebel strongholds

COLOMBO (R) — The strongholds of Tamil rebels in northern Sri Lanka came under renewed air attack Sunday but the extent of casualties or damage was not known, a government spokesman said.

He said for the fifth successive day since a car bomb blast in Colombo last Tuesday killed 106 people and injured 300, the air force raided guerrilla targets, especially arms and ammunition depots, "to render the terrorists defenceless."

The government blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and its ally, Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students, for the car bomb blast, a charge rejected by both groups fighting to set up a separate state for minority Tamils.

A government statement said that in the Jaffna district "intense patrolling continues with machine gun attacks on terrorist bunkers and hideouts."

"Air reconnaissance by helicopter are helping to spot and prevent terrorist movements, as

well as to interrupt their radio communications with south India."

India has denied frequent allegations by Colombo that it trains and arms guerrillas who have their headquarters in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, home to 50 million Tamils.

Independent confirmation of government statements on its operations in the Jaffna peninsula has been difficult because journalists are barred from the area, which is virtually cut off from the outside world.

In the past 48 hours eight rebels have been killed and eight wounded in clashes with security forces in the northern and eastern provinces, the government statement said.

It said two policemen were killed and three wounded in a

booby trap explosion last Friday during a raid on rebel hideouts at Mahlavatuwan in the eastern part of the island.

A near blanket curfew imposed on the capital Colombo since the Tuesday bombing was lifted Sunday but security forces throughout the country were kept on maximum alert.

The spokesman said two army camps in Jaffna came under brief mortar fire Saturday night but there were no casualties.

The head of the Tamil Refugee Rehabilitation Organisation, K. Sivathambi, told Reuters in Colombo that travellers from Jaffna told him at least three hospitals there have been damaged in the air strikes.

He said his organisation's headquarters and the offices of Jaffna's only English-language newspaper, Saturday Review, were bombed Saturday but there were no reports of casualties.

Sivathambi is normally based in Jaffna but has been unable to return over the last few days because of the fighting.

Kissinger, Nixon urge conventional military cuts in Europe

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Richard M. Nixon and former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger are urging President Ronald Reagan to hold out for cuts in Soviet conventional military forces in exchange for final withdrawal of U.S. intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

If the United States withdraws its medium-range Pershing 2 and cruise missiles from Europe in exchange for Soviet withdrawal of medium-range SS-20s and short-range SS-12s and SS-23s, as proposed, the Soviet Union could still target Europe with long-range missiles, and the threat of its conventional forces would loom larger, the two said in a column distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate for Publication Sunday.

"If we strike the wrong kind of deal, we could create the most profound crisis of the NATO alliance in its 40-year history," the two said, adding that they were speaking jointly for the first time since leaving office "because we are deeply concerned about this danger."

Similar caution was urged Friday by Senator Sam Nunn, Democratic chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Sen. Nunn said the United States and NATO should have the right to abrogate any nuclear arms treaty if efforts to negotiate conventional force reductions fail.

Dr. Kissinger served as both national security adviser and secretary of state in the Nixon administration from 1969 to 1974, when Mr. Nixon resigned.

"If we eliminate American medium- and short-range forces in Europe without redressing the conventional imbalance, the Soviet nuclear threat to Europe will remain and the gap in deterrence to conventional attack will be reopened," they wrote.

The two urged Mr. Reagan to insist on two changes, including no Soviet medium-range missiles in Asia. The current proposal allows the United States to retain 100 medium-range missiles on its own territory and permits the Soviets to keep a like number in Asia.

These missiles would threaten China, Japan and South Korea and, because they are mobile, could be moved quickly into positions threatening Europe.

Secondly, they wrote, "we should link the final phase of withdrawals to the elimination of the huge Soviet conventional superiority."

"Otherwise, removing medium- and short-range nuclear weapons would simply make Europe safe for conventional war," they said.

Icelandic government routed in elections

REYKJAVIK (R) — Feminists held the balance of power in Iceland after the ruling centre-right coalition suffered a major defeat in general elections.

"I expect I will resign on Tuesday," centrist Prime Minister Steingunnur Hermannsson said after returns showed the two government parties would only hold 31 of the 63 seats in parliament.

The dominant Conservative Party, which suffered the worst rout in its history, publicly offered the feminists congratulations as "the real winners of the election."

The collapse of the coalition's support thrusts the Women's Alliance into a pivotal role and could lead to the entry of feminists into government.

The party, which first sent feminists to parliament in 1983, doubled its vote to 10 per cent. Iceland's woman president, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, is to set the machinery of forming a government in motion immediately after the cabinet's expected resignation on Tuesday.

The negotiations are likely to be long and tortuous, but the most likely solution is for the two government parties to invite the feminists into a coalition cabinet, politicians say.

They have said they are willing to enter government with any partner, but only on condition their demands for raising women's wages and improving social services are met.

Chinese envoy hints at progress after Moscow talks

PEKING (R) — China's envoy to the latest round of talks between Peking and the Soviet Union said the Moscow meeting earlier this month "added impetus" to the normalisation of relations, the New China News Agency said Sunday.

Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said in Moscow the two sides discussed frankly the

Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea, the agency said.

China says Soviet backing for Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea is one of three major obstacles in relations between Moscow and Peking. The others are Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and troop concentrations on the Chinese border.

Chernobyl accident 'will never occur again'

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet authorities say they have instituted technical measures to improve the reliability of nuclear power stations and ensure that an accident like the one at Chernobyl, which happened a year ago Sunday, never occurs again.

Andronik Petrovskiy, head of the State Committee for the Use of Atomic Energy, was quoted in the daily Sovetskaya Rossiya Sunday as saying that after the disaster at the Ukrainian plant last April, technical changes were made at nuclear power stations with the same type of equipment all over the country.

"These measures to increase reliability allow us to exclude the technical possibility that such an accident will be repeated," he said in an article headlined Lessons of Chernobyl.

"The safety of the reactor (of the Chernobyl type) has increased considerably and can be ensured even in the event of incorrect usage by personnel," he said, adding that nuclear power workers had received extra training since the accident.

An official report last year blamed human error for the world's worst nuclear power station accident, which caused the death of at least 30 people and sent radiation over most of Europe.

The official Soviet press marked the first anniversary of

the accident in a low-key way, printing only Mr. Petrovskiy's interview and another by a senior biologist, who predicted that the increase in long-term cancer deaths as a result of the accident would be small.

The Communist Party organ Pravda had no comment on Chernobyl, though it carried a report about unfilled targets in the energy industry as a whole.

Soviet News Agency TASS carried only a short report about the increasing number of nuclear accidents in the United States, which was reminiscent of the first days after Chernobyl when the official media gave sparse information about the disaster and took refuge in attacking the West.

Mr. Petrovskiy said in Sunday's interview that the temperature inside the tomb had now fallen to 98 degrees centigrade (208 F) and all risk of radiation leaking into the atmosphere was excluded.

He also restated the Soviet Union's continued commitment to nuclear power despite the accident, noting that 11 new atomic energy stations were currently being built.

But he said they would employ different technology from that used at Chernobyl.

On Saturday, Mr. Petrovskiy announced that plans had been scrapped to build two new reac-

75,000 march against Reagan foreign policy

WASHINGTON (R) — An estimated 75,000 demonstrators have staged a huge rally outside the U.S. Capitol to protest President Reagan's policies in Central America and South Africa.

Tens of thousands of protesters gathered at the White House Saturday morning then marched, chanting slogans and waving banners, to Capitol Hill where they were joined on the steps of Congress by thousands more demonstrators.

Police said 35,000 marched to the Capitol and estimated the crowd there at 75,000. But rally organisers put the figure at 150,000 and said it was the biggest protest since the Vietnam War era in the late 1960s and early 1970s when some 500,000 demonstrators marched in Washington.

Mr. Reagan, however, was not at home to witness the noisy but peaceful demonstration. He and his wife Nancy left Friday night to spend the weekend at the Camp David presidential retreat in suburban Maryland.

The demonstrators called for an end to the Reagan administration's support for Nicaragua's contra rebels, who are fighting the leftist Sandinista government.

Poland frees 9 under amnesty

WARSAW (R) — Poland says nine people held on terrorism charges are being freed by amnesty, but security police have rounded up 500 other political opponents for "warning talks" and seizure of illegal materials.

Polish authorities announced Saturday night the nine accused of terrorism would be freed for humanitarian reasons under an amnesty to political offenders.

14 U.S. power plants report over 50 accidents

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fourteen of the nation's nuclear power plants each reported more than 50 mishaps in 1986, according to a study by a watchdog group.

During 1986, more than 3,000 mishaps were reported to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), including a fatal accident at a nuclear plant in Virginia, the study by Public Citizen said.

The watchdog group predicted that the number of mishaps for 1987 will increase when the commission issues its final total of "licensee events reports" later this year.

Public Citizen, a non-profit research group founded in 1971 by consumer advocate Ralph Nader, based its study on public documents from the NRC and information obtained through the Freedom of Information Act.

John Kopck, a spokesman for the NRC, said the agency had not seen the report but said the incidents were "operational events with safety implications."

He said that during the first half of 1986 there were 2,818 licensee event reports, or LERs.

Scott Peters, a spokesman for the Atomic Industrial Forum, said employees at nuclear plants are "committed to write down everything that goes out of whack — a light bulb out on a panel, a supervisor signing in late — all the way up to a major accident."

"The fact that there are so many LERs indicates in a perverse way that the industry is well-watched," Peters said.

In December, eight workers were injured when a steel pipe burst and released 30,000 gallons

of boiling water and steam at

Surry unit 2 in Gravel Neck, Virginia. Four employees died from their injuries.

"On this, the first anniversary of the Chernobyl accident, it is important for U.S. citizens to recognise that a major nuclear accident of similar proportions can occur here," said Joshua Gordon, a nuclear policy analyst and author of the report.

"Yet, incredibly, in the face of an ever-worsening nuclear safety record, U.S. government and nuclear industry officials continue to argue that we are somehow immune to such an accident," Gordon said.

The study, titled Nuclear Power Safety Report: 1979-1986 found more than 23,000 mishaps reported to the NRC since the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania.

On March 28, 1979, in the worst accident in U.S. commercial nuclear history, nuclear fuel melted at TMI's unit 2 reactor, releasing radioactive gas into the environment.

In 1979, there were 2,310 mishaps at the nation's 68 nuclear power plants, including the accident at TMI, the report said. The number of mishaps increased to 3,804 at 69 plants in 1980, with 104 designated "especially significant mishaps" by the NRC, according to the report.

In 1981, there were 4,060 mishaps at 75 plants, with 140 considered significant by the NRC. The number rose to 4,500 at 81 plants in 1982, including 253 labelled significant, the report said.

Kasper declined to confirm the injury reports, but confirmed that "several ambulances" were sent to the scene.

The disturbances broke out after demonstrators left an anti-nuclear rally which drew at least 10,000 people, according to estimates from police and demonstration organisers.

In The Netherlands, about 200 demonstrators with clubs tried to block the entrance to the Pechiney Aluminium Firm near the southern town of Borssele.

Police mounted a baton charge, and at least one police officer and one demonstrator were wounded. No arrests were reported.

In West Germany, demonstrators staged rallies and marches in Berlin, Bonn, Hamburg, Munich and Stuttgart.

Police said about 5,000 protesters marched through West Berlin's downtown area, wearing gas masks and carrying mock geiger counters in a peaceful demonstration.

In Hamburg, however, handful of protesters set fire to campaign posters for conservative parties in coming local elections. Police said an elderly passerby was treated at a hospital for shock. No arrests were reported.

Thousands of British protesters paraded through London Saturday, led by Glynis Kinnock, wife of Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock.

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British royal family get medical kits

LONDON (R) — Members of Britain's royal family will carry special kits designed to shield them from AIDS infection if they need medical treatment while on trips abroad, according to a British newspaper. The Sunday Telegraph said in Sunday's editions that Buckingham Palace had ordered the kits containing sterile packs of needles, syringes, blood plasma and other equipment which can keep a patient alive for three days without a blood transfusion. AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome which destroys the body's ability to fight infection, can be contracted through sexual relations or contact with contaminated blood. The newspaper said the first two kits were delivered to the palace last week. The palace declined comment on the report. Queen Elizabeth's sister, Princess Margaret, was expected to be the first member of the royal family to travel with one of the kits when she pays an official visit to China next month, the Telegraph said.

China executes two wife-killers

PEKING (R) — Two men who murdered their wives were executed in the Chinese capital, the Peking Evening News said. Liu Jinsong poisoned his wife after growing to despise her because she suffered chronic illness, the newspaper said. Gao Linshan stabbed his wife when she asked for a divorce. Executions in China are usually carried out by shooting.

Patient is given mismatched heart

TUCSON, Arizona (AP) — A hospital has begun a review of procedures after a patient was given a heart of the wrong blood type and surgeons had to implant an artificial heart when his body rejected the donor organ, a spokesman said. James J. Shocklee, 39, was in stable condition Saturday and had recovered enough to be put on the priority list for a new donor heart, said his surgeon, Dr. Jack G. Copeland of University Medical Centre. "He's awake. He's alert. He has been out of bed three times, and his kidney function has returned to a better level than it was before his operation," said Copeland, hospital chief of cardiopulmonary surgery. The mismatched heart, provided by a hospital in Texas, was transplanted into Shocklee on Tuesday and rejection was almost immediate, Copeland said. Unable to find another donor heart, doctors consulted with Shocklee's family, and implanted a Jarvik-70 artificial heart, said Copeland, who was chief surgeon at the second operation. Nina Trasoff, a spokeswoman for the hospital, which is affiliated with the University of Arizona, said a review was under way, but declined to elaborate.

Bolivian held on drug charges in Cyprus

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) — Police at Larnaca airport have detained a Bolivian dancer on charges of possessing 3 kilograms of cocaine, police sources said Sunday. The cocaine, estimated at a street value of one million dollars, were seized by customs authorities at the airport in this port after the suspect, Carlos Isaias Hustillo Ornela, arrived on a British Airways flight from London, the sources said. During a search of the luggage, officials found the cocaine concealed in 16 small plastic bags, said the sources, who would not be further identified. Ornela, 26, had flown from Bolivia to Brazil, and then to London, they added. Ornela told the Larnaca court during a hearing Sunday that he intended to deliver the luggage he was carrying to a person who was to meet him at the airport. Police said the person did not show up at the airport. They reported Ornela had a Bolivian passport and that he had told them he was a dancer. They gave no other details.

Western influence blamed for drug use

DHAKA (R) — Pornography, unemployment and Western influences are to blame for increasing drug addiction in Bangladesh, narcotics officials said. Nearly 50,000 Bangladeshis use marijuana, hashish, opium and other drugs regularly, they told reporters, adding that the number was increasing at an alarming rate. President Hossain Mohammad Ershad late last year proposed the death penalty for drug smuggling, but parliament has not yet voted his proposal into a law.

Japan has 187 AIDS carriers

TOKYO (R) — Japan had at least 187 AIDS carriers at the end of March and most were infected by imported blood, according to a government report. A Ministry of Health and Welfare spokesman said he believed there were many more undetected carriers. "This is an interim report, so it's by no means complete," he said. The study, conducted in 27 of Japan's 47 prefectures, showed that 159 of the 187 AIDS carriers had contracted the virus through transfusions of imported blood, the spokesman said. Carriers can pass on the disease but may never themselves develop symptoms. The spokesman said many of the 187 carriers were under 20. He said the survey found that Japan had 38 confirmed AIDS cases, 25 of whom have died.

New British newspaper launched

LONDON (AP) — A new British national newspaper made its debut on Sunday, a tabloid funded by left-wing municipalities, labour unions and socialist supporters. The new weekly, called News On Sunday, is the only national newspaper not owned by businessmen, apart from the Communist Morning Star daily which has a circulation of 28,000. News On Sunday printed 1.6 million copies of its first issue but editor Keith Sutton said it expects to settle down at around half that figure. He said the weekly was aimed at readers under age 35. An editorial titled "we have a dream" in the first issue said the weekly was "a dream come true... a dream of a radical, independent, popular newspaper that stands up against the privileged and the powerful. A paper committed to equality, justice and freedom." The editorial pledged to "fight racism and sexism," to "take the side of workers, (and) the unemployed" and not print pictures of naked women — a feature of Britain's racier tabloids. The first issue, sold for 35 pence (58 cents) and had 48 pages of news, features and sports, plus a 16-page colour supplement. Kevin Moseley, the weekly's spokesman, said there were 181 staff members, including 48 journalists. The only story on page one was about poor people in Brazil selling parts of their bodies for transplant surgery.

Veterans inaugurate war memorial

HELLFIRE PASS, Thailand (R) — In a sombre ceremony Sunday, former allied prisoners-of-war inaugurated a memorial to the thousands of men who lost their lives on the infamous "death railway" in World War II. About 50 ex-PoWs gathered at Hellfire Pass, a gash they cut through ridges of stone in the hills of western Thailand. Accompanied by Australian, British, Dutch, U.S. and New Zealand representatives, they witnessed the unveiling of a brass plaque detailing the human cost of the railway the Japanese Imperial Army wanted built at any price. "This region is full of ghosts of emaciated men buried with difficulty in sullen mud or cremated in grey heaps," former PoW commander Sir Edward "weary" Dunlop of Australia said in a dedication address. Ambassador Richard Smith of Australia, which is financing the memorial, called it a monument to the facility of war. Scheduled for completion next April, the memorial will include a partly restored wooden bridge and a simple museum. About \$22,000 has been spent and more donations are being sought. After the ceremony, the ex-servicemen sipped cans of ice-cold Australian beer and shared memories of almost impenetrable jungle, disease, non-stop monsoon rains and back-breaking labour under the eyes of guards they nicknamed Dillinger, snake hips and "the boy bastard." More than a quarter of the 60,000 Australian, British, Dutch and American soldiers sent to labour on the railway after their capture by the Japanese died of starvation and disease.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ K 10 9 7
♥ K Q 6 3
♦ 9 8 6
♣ 8 4

WEST EAST
♠ 3 2 ♠ 4
♥ J 5 ♥ A 10 8 7 4 2
♦ J 7 ♦ Q 10 6 3
♣ A Q J 7 5 2 ♠ 10 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q 9 8 6 5
♥ 9
♦ A K 4 2
♣ K 6

The bidding:
West North East South
3 ♠ Pass Pass 3 ♠
Pass 4 ♠ Pass Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

Much of declarer-play technique centers around keeping the danger hand off lead. Here's a situation that crops up more frequently than one would imagine, and the winning line eludes many.

South's first problem is what to do when West's preempt gets passed around to him. Since he might not be able to curb his partner's enthusiasm for hearts if

he were to make a takeout double, a bid of three spades is preferable; at this vulnerability, it must show a fair hand. North's four spades ends the auction, and West leads the jack of hearts.

The fact that so much of North's values are in hearts places the contract in jeopardy. From the auction and the opening lead, it seems likely West has the ace-queen of clubs and East the ace of hearts. Therefore, declarer is in danger of losing one heart trick, one diamond and two clubs unless East can be kept off lead.

If declarer puts up one of dummy's heart honors at trick one, East will win and shift to a club. That will net the defenders the first three tricks, and declarer will eventually have to surrender a diamond trick for down one.

But see what happens if declarer does not cover the jack of hearts. If East overtakes to switch to a club, declarer will get two diamond tricks on dummy's hearts. Therefore, East must play low. But now declarer can take a ruffing finesse for the ace of hearts and discard a club on the other heart honor after drawing trumps, limiting his losers to one trick in each side suit.

البريد 1250